CREDITS
RAWS : SHERLUPIN
TRANSLATIONS : NAMRADUS
TYPESETTING : THE WATCHFUL GENT

BUKU KOMIK FLEX MEDIA KOMPUTINDO

DETECTIVE SCHOOL Q 11

Story: SEIMARU AMAGI
Art: FUMIYA SATO

THE SHI' UN-RYU THAT WAS KEPT HERE...

IT'S GONE!!!

HAS VANISHED?!

探偵学園Q

第81話 「紫雲龍」の怪異 2

CHAPTER 81:
THE SUSPICIOUS SHI' UN-RYU

SO YOU TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE FACT AND STOLE IT, DIDN'T YOU??

WEREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO SAID YOU'D CARRY IT 'CAUSE YOU WANTED TO KEEP AN EYE ON IT, HUH?

カoo

HEY, YOU!!

THERE'S NO WAY HE COULD HAVE PULLED ANYTHING OFF IN SUCH A SHORT TIME!

BESIDES IT'S ONLY 10 METRES FROM THE WAREHOUSE TO THE GALLERY ...

RYU WAS PERSONALLY ASKED TO TAKE CARE OF IT BY GRANDMA!

THAT'S NONSENSE, ONII-SAN!

I WAS MAKING SURE HE DID NOT DROP IT!

YES! I WAS WATCHING HIM TOO!

I SAW HIM CARRY THE VASE MYSELF. HE WAS VERY CAUTIOUS, ALMOST REVERENT ...

S-SHE HAS A POINT...

AND ALL 55 VASES WERE BROUGHT IN TO THE GALLERY!

BESIDES, I COUNTED THE NUMBER OF VASES WE HAD AND THE ONES THAT WERE BROUGHT IN...

EVEN RYU CHECKED IT WITH ME!

I DID! ONLY THE FLOWER VASES USED FOR DECORATION ARE LEFT!

HARUKA! DID YOU CHECK TO SEE IF THERE ARE ANY MORE VASES LEFT BEHIND IN THE WARE-HOUSE?

EVERY SINGLE WINDOW IN THIS ROOM HAS BEEN LOCKED TIGHT!

SO THERE IS NO WAY SOMEONE COULD HAVE COME IN FROM OUTSIDE!

THE ONE DOOR IN THIS ROOM CAN ONLY BE OPENED BY THE KEY THAT MOTHER ENTRUSED TO ME ...

NO, THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE ...

SOMEONE CAME IN FROM OUTSIDE AND STOLE IT...?

THEN THAT MEANS...

HOW CAN IT BE POSSIBLE...

TH-THEN WHERE IS THE SHI' UN-RYU ...?

THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN SEEN...

BUT EVEN IF THE VASE HAD BEEN TAKEN OUT OF THE ROOM BY SOMEONE ...

OF COURSE, IT IS TRUE ...

THAT IT'S HARD TO KEEP WATCH OVER ALL THE VASES WITH SO MANY PEOPLE AROUND...

I CLEARLY SAW RYU WRAP THE VASE IN A NEWSPAPER ...

AND THEN HE BROUGHT IT OUT OF THE WAREHOUSE ...

HUH?!

IT CAN'T BE... THAT THE VASE VANISHED ON IT'S OWN...

RIGHT?

THERE'S NO WAY AN OBJECT CAN DISAPPEAR ON IT'S OWN!!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT??

FIRST, LET'S CHECK THIS ROOM FROM TOP TO BOTTOM!

THERE'S NO WAY THAT THE VASE COULD HAVE VANISHED ON IT'S OWN...

SOMEONE MUST HAVE HIDDEN IT IN THE HOUSE USING SOME KIND OF A TRICK!

PLEASE STOP FIGHTING!!

DON'T COMPARE ME WITH YOU, ONII-SAN!

MAYBE YOU STOLE IT BECAUSE YOU NEEDED SOME MONEY, EH, HARUKA?

WHAT DID YOU SAY, YOU...

WOULD YOU PLEASE HELP US?

O-OK ...

SURE!

KYU IS CORRECT ...

AFTER I CARRIED THE VASE HERE ...

IT WAS HIDDEN IN THIS ROOM SOMEWHERE. LET'S SEARCH THE ROOM...

IT'S OF NO USE...

THE VASE IS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND.

WE'LL MOVE ON AND SEARCH THE OTHER ROOMS OF THE HOUSE.

WHY DON'T WE ALL REST FOR A BIT?

ALRIGHT. HARUKA, PLEASE MAKE SOME TEA.

YES, FATHER.

EH?

LOOKS LIKE YOUR PLAN WORKED ...

SOMEONE ELSE GOT TO IT BEFORE ME!!

W-WHAT? NO, I WASNT THE ONE WHO STOLE THE VASE, GOTO-SAN!!

WELL DONE ON HIDING THE VASE. YOU'LL GET THE PAYMENT AS PROMISED.

IT'S JUST LIKE WE TALKED ABOUT ON THE PHONE YESTERDAY, RIGHT?

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AH...

.....

HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF A FAMOUS PAINTER NAMED OKYO MARUYAMA?

EXCUSE ME, TSUYOSHI-SAN ...

W-WHY ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT THAT NOW ...?

AS STUDENTS OF DDS, WE HAVE COME ACROSS WORKS OF KUZURYUU TAKUMI BEFORE ...

MUCH LIKE THE POPULAR OKIKU DOLLS WHICH WERE CONSIDERED ALIVE BECAUSE THEIR HAIR ACTUALLY GREW ...

IT IS SAID THAT HE PAINTED GHOSTS SO LIFELIKE, THAT MANY PEOPLE ACTUALLY BELIEVED THEY WERE REAL...

YES. HE WAS A FAMOUS JAPANESE PAINTER ...

EH...? OKYO MARUYAMA?

AFTER BEING BITTEN BY A VENOMOUS SNAKE.

KYU AND ANOTHER FRIEND WERE TRAPPED INSIDE, AND THEY NEARLY LOST THEIR LIVES ...

THE FIRST OF THEM WAS AN OLD SCHOOL BUILDING THAT HE HAD DESIGNED ...

A-A POISONOUS SNAKE?!

EHH?!

YES. AND NOT TOO LONG AGO ...

THERE WAS A FIERCE RIVALRY TO OBTAIN A VIOLIN DESIGNED BY KUZURYUU TAKUMI...

AND IT CULMINATED IN THE DEATHS OF FOUR PEOPLE, WHICH INCLUDED ONE PERSON WHO COMMITTED SUICIDE BY SLASHING THEIR WRISTS.

SO WITH ALL THESE MYSTERIES AND SECRETS THAT SURROUND THE WORKS OF KUZURYUU TAKUMI...

IT COULD VERY WELL BE THAT EVERY CREATION OF HIS CARRIES A DEADLY CURSE...

SO IT'S POSSIBLE THIS MAY NOT BE JUST A REGULAR OLD THEFT...

BUT IF IT IS... THEN I SHOULD WARN YOU...

IF THERE IS ANYONE AMONG YOU...

WHO WISHES TO GET RID OF, OR DESTROY THE SHI' UN-RYU...

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THE DRAGON'S WRATH.

YOU REALLY SHOULD BEWARE OF ...

ME TOO! SEE YOU LATER!

ササッ!

I HATE CURSES!

ズズズ!

EH? NOGI-SAN, GOTO-SAN!!

WH..WHAT'S COME OVER THEM??

I-I WAS THINKING, MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST LEAVE ...

はは は

Y-YES!

I-I'LL COME TOO!

KYU, SHALL WE LOOK AGAIN?

Y-YES!

...

.....

TO MAKE SURE THAT SHI' UN-RYU WAS TAKEN OUT OF THE GALLERY ...

ガイイ!

I NEED TO BORROW YOUR KEYS, KUSUNOKI-SAN...

HERE YOU GO.

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OKAY.

YEAH.

LOOKS LIKE THERE'S ONLY THE FLOWER VASE HERE ...

IT IS TRUE...

THAT I DID NOT LIKE THE SHI' UN-RYU ...

WHICH MY MOTHER OBSESSED OVER.

.....

WHERE ON EARTH COULD IT HAVE GONE ...

F-FATHER ...?

EVEN IF I PRODUCED MY BEST EVER CERAMICS ARTWORK ...

IT WOULD FADE IN COMPAR SON TO THAT SHI' UN-RYU.

EVERY TIME I LOOKED AT IT, I SAW THE GEN US OF KUZURYUU TAKUMI, AND IT MADE ME THINK ...

AFTER SEEING MY MOTHER VALUE IT SO MUCH ...

NOT JUST THAT ...

I HATED IT!

OF THE POWER OF THE SHI' UN-RYU!

I USED MY HATE AS AN EXCUSE TO LOOK AT IT. BUT THE MORE I DID ...

I FOUND THAT MY HATE HAD GIVEN WAY TO ADMIRATION ...

OH, FATHER ...

...

THAT'S IT!

VANISHED...?

PROTECT...!

THE ONE WHO HATED IT THE MOST NOW WANTS TO PROTECT IT...

WEIRD... WHEN THE SHI' LN-RYU VAN SHED ...

WHAT IS IT, KYU?

KYU... WHAT HAVE YOU FOUND OUT?

WELL ...

EH? Y-YEAH, SURE.

THEN COULD YOU PLEASE GIVE ME A COUPLE? RYU, YOU'LL HAVE SOME TOO, RIGHT?

EH? Y-YES. I THINK THERE ARE SOME IN THE KITCHEN ...

D'YOU STILL HAVE THE CAKES FROM YESTERDAY, HARUKA?

. DUNNO WHY, BUT I'M HUNGRY ALL OF A SUDDEN...

I SEE... SO, THERE IS ONLY ONE ANSWER?

FIRST IS THE MEANING OF THE WORD 'PROTECT' ...

SECOND IS THE DIM LIGHTING INSIDE THE HOUSE...

AND THIRD IS THE TRICK OF THE 'COIN THAT DOES NOT VANISH'!

THERE ARE THREE HINTS!

PLEASE EXCUSE ME FOR A MOMENT ...

IT REALLY IS DELICIOUS ...

WOW! IT'S SO TASTY!!

PLEASE EXPLAIN THE ANSWER TO ME FROM YOUR THREE CLUES, KYU.

RYU... YOU DON'T HAVE TO HIDE IT ANYMORE.

EH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

SO YOU CAME...

OOHH, RYU!!

EH? KYU!

.....

WAS YOU, WASN'T IT, RYU?

BECAUSE THE ONE WHO STOLE... NO. THE ONE WHO PROTECTED THE SHI' UN-RYU...

IT SEEMS SO. BUT IF WE DO THIS ...

IT'S AN ORD NARY VASE, RIGHT?

THEN WHAT'S TH S?

WHY DID YOU DO IT?

EH? DO WHAT? I DON'T UNDERSTAND ...

AHA ...

HA HA HA HA HA !!

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU FOUND OUT SO QUICKLY!

VOILA! WHAT HAS IT BECOME?

EH? ISN'T IT THE OTHER WAY AROUND?

BUT ALSO PSYCHOLO-GICALLY, WITH THE HEART

HUMANS DON'T SEE WITH JUST THE EYES ...

BUT THE MORE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT YOU DO NOT KNOW A LOT ABOUT THE SHI' UN-RYU..

BUT YOU DID, AND YOU FIGURED OUT MY TRICK YOUR OBSERVATIONAL SKILLS ARE TOP-NOTCH AS EVER, KYU.

THOUGH I REALIZED THE CULPRIT WAS YOU, I STILL HAD TO FIGURE OUT HOW YOU DID IT ...

IF I HADN'T WATCHED YOU CLOSELY WHEN YOU CARRIED THE VASE, I WOULDN'T HAVE REALISED!!

IS IT A DUCK?

OR A GOOSE, MAYBE?

SEE? THIS IS A PSYCHOLOGICAL TRICK.

EH?

WHAT DO YOU SEE IN THIS PICTURE, KYU?

EH? IT LOOKS LIKE SOME SORT OF A BIRD.

NOW, LET'S REMOVE THE WALL OF PSYCHOLOGY...

WHAT DO YOU SEE NOW?

HUH?!

THAT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE LOOKNG AT IT WITH YOUR HEART, NOT WITH YOUR EYES

HOWEVER YOU LOOK AT IT, YOU CAN ONLY SEE A DUCK OR A GOOSE, RIGHT?

EHH?! IT'S TURNED INTO A RABBIT!!

EXACTLY!

BESIDES, THEY WOULD NOT CONSIDER THAT IT WOULD BE DISGUISED AS A FLOWER VASE...

SO ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS PUT SOME FLOWERS ON TOP, AND THE ILLUSION IS COMPLETE!

THE PEOPLE OF THIS HOUSE ARE USED TO SEEING SHI' UN-RYU, WHICH IS SMALLER AT THE BOTTOM AND WIDER AT THE TOP ...

SO IF WE JUST FLIP IT UPSIDE DOWN, THEY WON'T EVEN RECOGNISE IT ANYMORE...

YOU SEE? WHAT WAS UNSEEN, CAN NOW BE SEEN ...

IT'S THE SAME IN THIS CASE TOO.

EH? OH YES!

OF COURSE I DID!

BY THE WAY, DID YOU FIGURE OUT HOW I MADE THE SHI' UN-RYU VANISH?

まじまじ

HMM... I SEE.

MY HAND SLIPPED!!

OH NO!!!

SORRY I KEPT YOU WAITING ...

LIKE THIS, RIGHT?

RYU, COULD YOU WAIT OUTSIDE?

SURE ...

I REMEMBER READING ABOUT THIS TRICK IN A MAGIC BOOK WHEN I WAS LITTLE.

THE TRICK IS CALLED 'THE COIN THAT DOES NOT VANISH'!

IT'S ONLY AN EMPTY NEWSPAPER! THE VASE WAS NEVER IN IT IN THE FIRST PLACE!

HAHA... LIKE THIS, RIGHT?

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!!

AND WHEN THEY ARE KEENLY LOOKING AT THE COIN, QUICKLY HIDE THE GLASS! THEY WILL NOT NOTICE THE DIFFERENCE SINCE THE NEWSPAPER IS STILL SHAPED LIKE THE GLASS!

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WE SAY THAT WE WILL MAKE THE COIN VANISH, AND SIMPLY PUT THE GLASS ON THE COIN...

OBVIOUSLY, THE COIN WILL NOT VANISH LIKE THAT, SO THE AUDIENCE WILL EXPECT MORE...

FIRST, WE PUT A COIN UNDER A GLASS AND WRAP SOME NEWSPAPER AROUND THE GLASS...

EXCELLENT, KYU!

THE AUDIENCE WLL BE SHOCKED TO SEE THAT IT IS THE GLASS, AND NOT THE COIN THAT HAS VAN SHED!

AND THEN QUICKLY SMASH THE NEWSPAPER ON TOP OF THE COIN!

I THOUGHT IF EVERYTHING WENT WELL, I COULD PROTECT GRANNY'S SHI' UN-RYU FROM THE PEOPLE WHO WERE TARGETING IT!

BUT I THOUGHT I COULD GET AWAY WITH IT BY CALL NG IT A JOKE.

I COULD HAVE BEEN FOUND OUT ...

IT FIRST OCCURED TO ME WHEN SHOGO-SAN SAID...

THAT WE HAD TO WRAP THE CERAMICS WITH NEWS-PAPERS ...

WELL, IT WAS BECAUSE ...

EH?

B-BUT WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST LET ME IN ON IT?

FU FU FU...

WHEN I REALISED THE OTHER MEANING OF THE WORD PROTECT. YOU WANTED TO PROTECT IT FROM BEING STOLEN BY STEAL NG IT YOURSELF!

I REALIZED THAT YOU DELIBERATELY HID THE VASE IN ORDER TO PROTECT IT ...

AND I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE FUN FOR YOU...

.....

I WANTED TO WATCH YOU ...

SOLVE THE MYSTERY OF THE STOLEN SHI' UN-RYU!

^^^

OH, YOU'RE RIGHT! IT WAS FUN!

W-WELL ...

THAT'S TRUE!

AH!!

BUT I TH NK SHE'LL GET BETTER ONCE SHE KNOWS THE VASE IS FINE.

THEN LET'S GO VISIT GRANDMA WITH THE SHI' UN-RYU ...

YEAH, SHE MUST BE WORRIED SICK!!

WAAAH!! THE SHI' UN-RYU!!

KYU!! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!

OW!!

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!?

THANK GOD IT'S F NE!!

ほ…

I-IT'S OKAY ...

HM??

YES! IT'S JUST AS I THOUGHT! THE CREATIONS OF KUZURYUU TAKUMI ALWAYS HIDE A MYSTERY BEHIND THEM!!

RYU....!! THIS IS...!

THE REASON THAT THE SHI' UN-RYU HAS BEEN KEPT AS A KUSUNOKI FAMILY HEIRLOOM...

IS BECAUSE THERE IS A SECRET MESSAGE FOR GRANDMA, HIDDEN INSIDE IT BY KUZURYUU TAKUMI!!

CREDITS
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DETECTIVE SCHOOL Q

Story: SEIMARU AMAGI
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THERE IS A REASON WHY KUZURYUU-SAN WANTED THE SHI' UN-RYU TO BE KEPT IN THE KUSUNOKI HOUSEHOLD ...

EH? THERE'S A MYSTERY ...

INSIDE THE SHI' UN-RYU ..?

YES, GRANNY!

AND THAT'S BECAUSE THERE'S A SECRET MESSAGE INSIDE IT FROM KUZURYUU TAKUMI TO YOU, GRANNY!!

探偵学園Q

第82話

CHAPTER 82 : LEGACY

TELL ME, GRANNY. DID KUZURYUU-SAN TELL YOU ANYTHING BEFORE HE GAVE YOU THE VASE?

Y-YES. IF I REMEMBER CORRCTLY, HE SAID ...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

A-A MESSAGE TO ME? FROM KUZURYUU-SAN?

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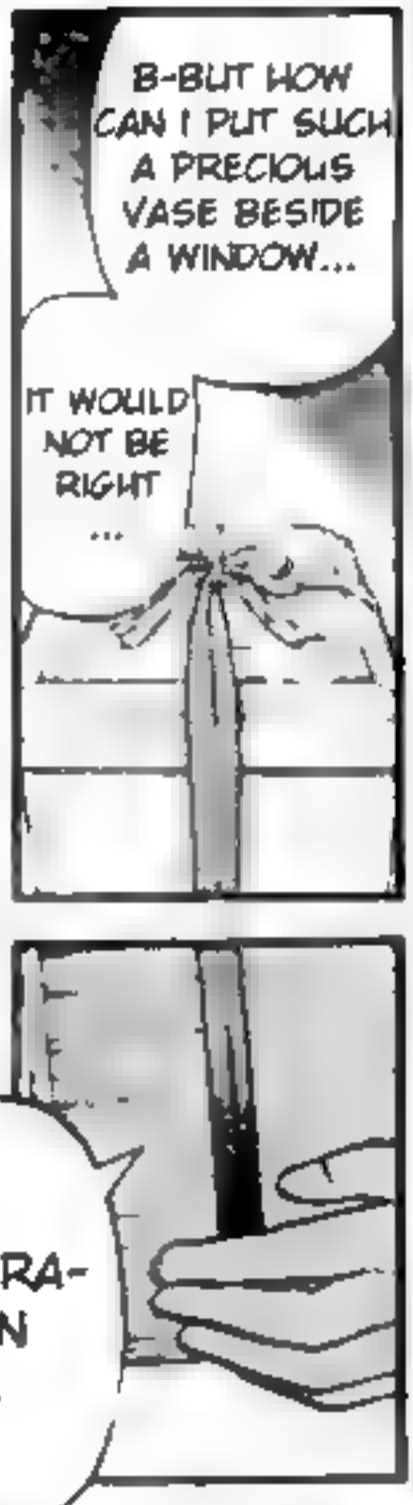
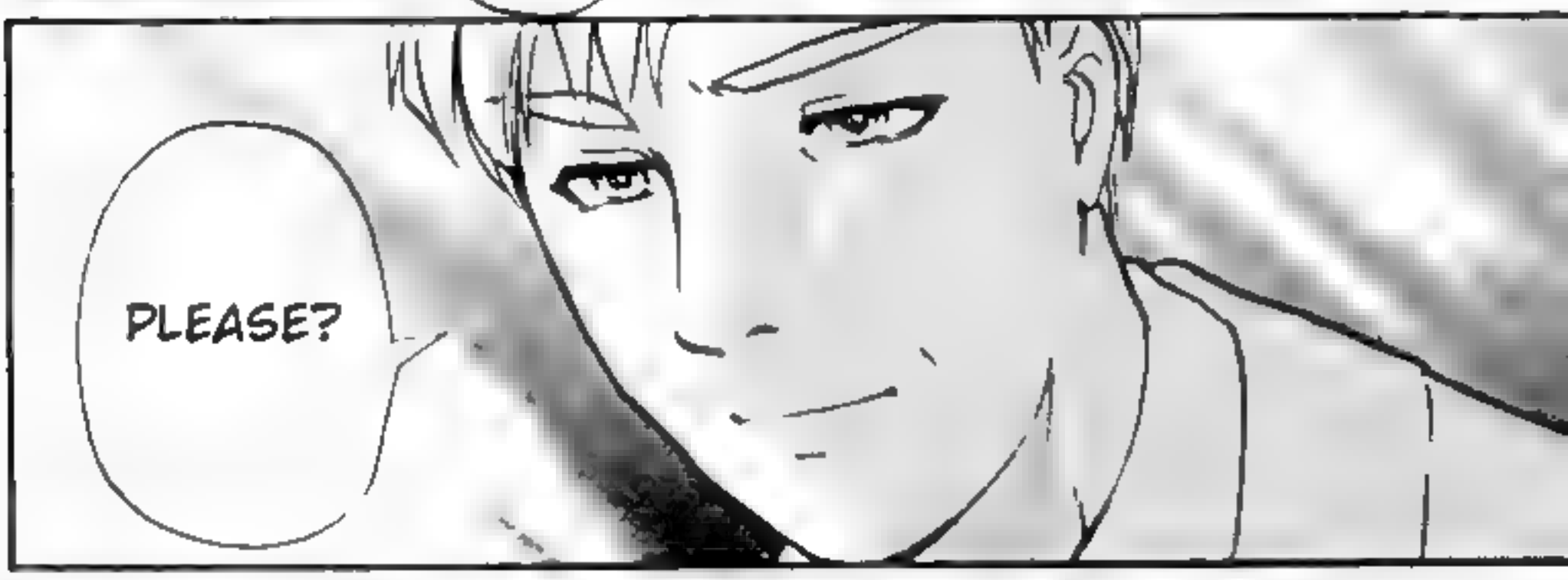
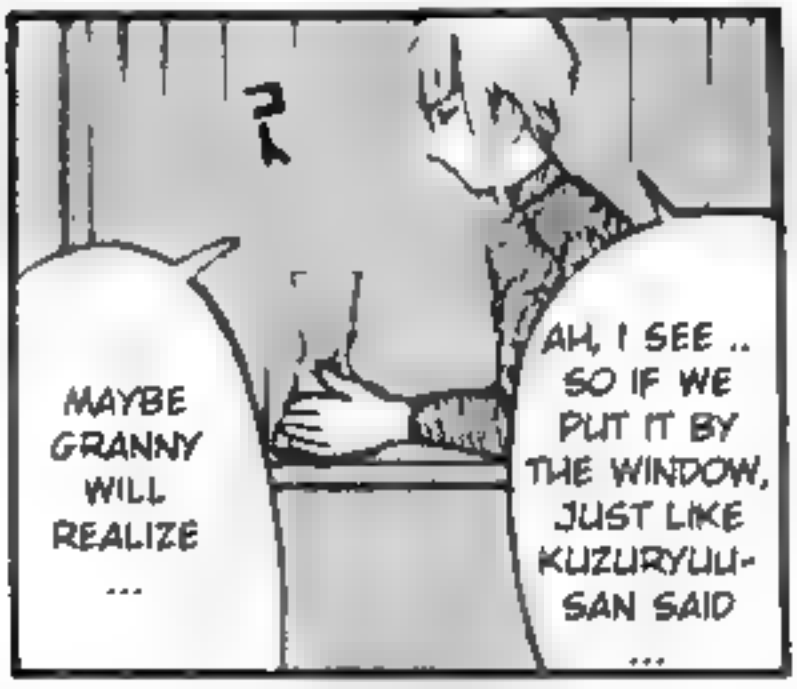
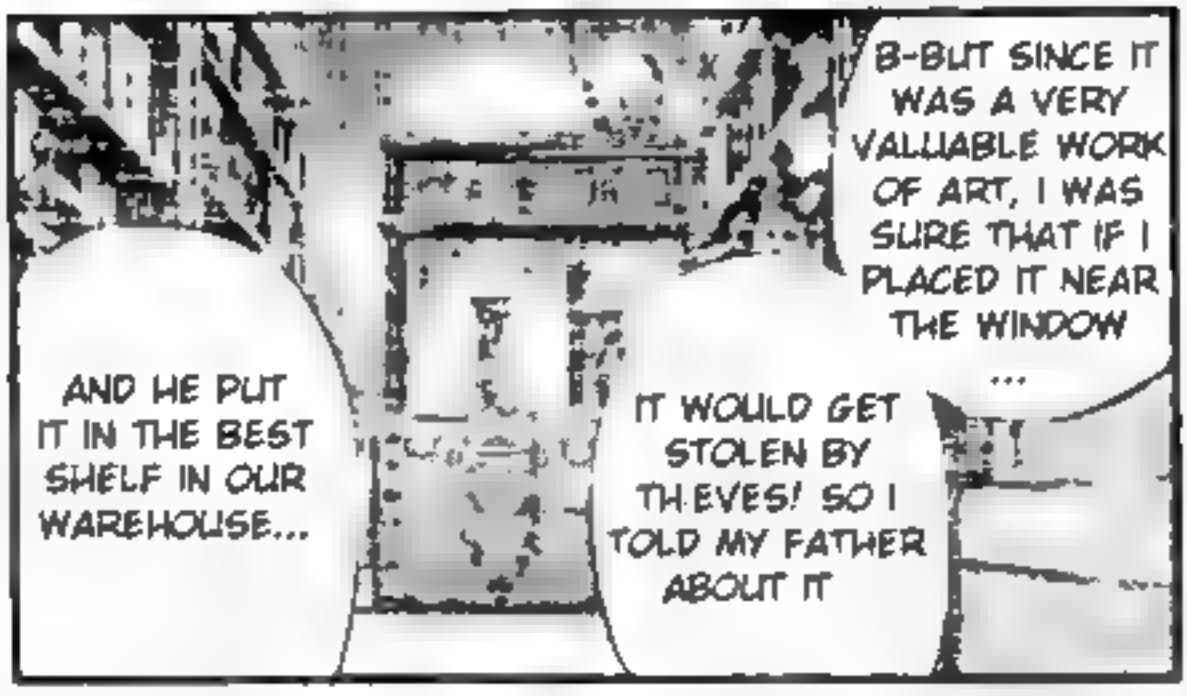

B-BUT HOW CAN I PUT SUCH A PRECIOUS VASE BESIDE A WINDOW...
IT WOULD NOT BE RIGHT ...
SAKURA-SAN ...

SAKURA-SAN...
COULD YOU PLEASE PUT THIS SHI' UN-RYU BESIDE THE WINDOW IN YOUR ROOM?
E-EH? BUT...


PLEASE?


MAYBE GRANNY WILL REALIZE ...
AH, I SEE .. SO IF WE PUT IT BY THE WINDOW, JUST LIKE KUZURYUU-SAN SAID ...


AND HE PUT IT IN THE BEST SHELF IN OUR WAREHOUSE...
IT WOULD GET STOLEN BY THIEVES! SO I TOLD MY FATHER ABOUT IT
B-BUT SINCE IT WAS A VERY VALUABLE WORK OF ART, I WAS SURE THAT IF I PLACED IT NEAR THE WINDOW ...

THE MESSAGE, THAT KUZURYUU TAKUMI LEFT, FOR YOUR EYES ONLY ...

E-EH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN? I DON'T SEE ANYTHING...

ALRIGHT HOW ABOUT IF I DO THIS?

LOOK AT THE SILHOUETTE OF THE VASE!!!

EH? THE SILHOUETTE?

AHH!!

H-HARUKA!! HARUKA, LOOK. !

G-GRANNY?!

A-AAH! AAAH!!

T-THIS!!!

IT'S THE SILHOUETTE OF TWO HUMAN FACES!!

YES!! IT'S A MALE AND FEMALE FACE LOOKING AT EACH OTHER!!

THE MALE FACE IS KUZURYUU TAKUMI'S!!

B-BUT WHY...?

YES!! A-AND THE ...

THE FEMALE FACE IS MOST LIKELY YOURS WHEN YOU WERE YOUNGER ...

RIGHT, GRANNY?

I BELIEVE HE WAS DEEPLY IN LOVE WITH YOU, DESPITE YOU BEING MARRIED, BUT LONG SEPARATED FROM YOUR HUSBAND...

THE MAN WHO NEVER ALLOWED EVEN THE MEDIA TO TAKE A PICTURE OF HIM, ASSENTED WHEN YOU ASKED HIM TO ...

MOST CERTAINLY, THIS IS...

HIS MESSAGE TO YOU, GRANNY!

HE CREATED THE SHI' UN-RYU AND PUT ALL OF HIS FEELINGS INTO IT...

SINCE HE COULDN'T TELL YOU THE TORRENT OF FEELINGS INSIDE HIM, HE DECIDED TO EXPRESS IT THROUGH WHAT HE DID BEST...

AND UNTIL THE END, HE REMAINED A MYSTERY ...

BUT...

HE NEVER OPENED HIS HEART TO ME ...

THOUGH I LOVED HIM VERY MUCH ...

T-THEN GRANNY AND KUZRYUU TAKUM... !

TO ME, KUZURYUU-SAN WAS A MAN FULL OF MYSTERIES ...

AT THAT TIME, I WAS JUST A 19 YEAR OLD GIRL ...

THANK GOD!

THANK GOD HE HAD THE SAME FEELINGS TOWARDS ME...

HIS FEELINGS HAVE F NALLY REACHED ME...

AFTER FIFTY-FIVE LONG YEARS ...

I CAN FINALLY UNBURDEN MYSELF FROM MY PRECIOUS SHI' UN-RYU ...

NOW THAT THIS RIDDLE HAS BEEN REVEALED ...

THANK YOU, KYU AND RYU...

THIS IS ALL THANKS TO YOU ...

!

GRANNY ...

IF YOU DON'T MIND, PLEASE SELL THIS SHI' UN-RYU TO A MUSEUM, I WILL HAPPILY LET GO OF IT, NOW.

I NEED TO APOLOGISE TO HIM, FIRST...

EVEN SHOGO FELT HATRED TOWARDS IT AFTER SEEING ME VALUE IT SO MUCH ...

I ALWAYS FOUGHT WITH YOUR GRAND-FATHER OVER THIS VASE ...

EH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN, GRANNY?

IT'S OKAY, HARUKA ...

W-WAIT A MINUTE, GRANNY!

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E-EH?! YOU'RE JUST GOING TO LET IT GO, JUST LIKE THAT?!

AFTER ALL WE DID TO PROTECT IT?!

THAT ALONE IS ENOUGH TO MAKE ME HAPPY.

MY SON, SHOGO IS VERY GOOD AT MAKING CERAMICS. ONCE I SELL THIS SHI' UN-RYU, HE WILL BE FREE, AND HE WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE BEAUTIFUL CERAMICS AGAIN ...

THOSE BLISSFUL DAYS I SPENT WITH HIM ARE ALREADY DISTANT MEMORIES OF THE PAST...

EVEN THOUGH KUZURYUU-SAN'S FEELINGS FINALLY REACHED ME ...

I AM HIS MOTHER, AFTER ALL...

GOODBYE HARUKA!

PLEASE VISIT ANY TIME YOU LIKE!!

SHE IS THE OWNER, AND SHE DECIDES WHERE IT SHOULD GO.

LET IT GO, KYU ...

THOUGH WE PROTECTED IT FROM TSUYOSHI AND THE OTHERS ...

TURNS OUT GRANNY REALLY WANTED TO LET THE SHI' UN-RYU GO...

EVEN THEN, I WAS SHOCKED SHE CHANGED HER MIND...

THOUGH YOU OFFERED TO MAKE A COPY...

THAT'S TRUE...

HE WILL ALSO FEEL THE LOSS IF THE SHI' UN-RYU LEAVES THE HOUSE.

BUT THERE IS ALWAYS THE POSSIBILITY THAT SHOGO-SAN MIGHT REJECT HER PLAN, RIGHT?

BUT WHY DO YOU WANT IT SO BADLY, RYU?

HM?

I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE A CLUE FOR OUR ANALYSIS OF KUZURYUU TAKUMI...

O-OH THAT ...

SHE WOULD GIVE YOU HER ONLY PHOTO OF KUZURYUU TAKUMI?!

WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT...

I SEE ...

OKAY, LET ME TAKE A LOOK!

EH?

HE REALLY DOES LOOK A LOT LIKE YOU, RYU ...

INSIDE THIS PHOTO...

PERHAPS, THERE IS AN ANSWER HIDDEN...

LOOK HERE. THERE SEEMS TO BE SOMETHING ON KUZURYUU TAKUMI'S RIGHT HAND...

MAYBE A TATTOO. IT LOOKS LIKE A SYMBOL, DOESN'T IT?

EH?

WHAT IS IT, KYU?

THERE MUST BE A HIDDEN MEANING BEHIND THAT TATTOO ...

I'M CURIOUS!

HMM YES, YOU'RE RIGHT...

BUT IT'S TOO SMALL TO SEE ...

EH? MORE HELPFUL?

SO IT'S BETTER IF WE TAKE THIS TO SOMEONE WHO WILL BE MORE HELPFUL.

NO, THAT'S A BAD IDEA. WE MIGHT GET INTO TROUBLE IF WE BRING IN RANDOM PHOTOS WHICH ARE NOT RELATED TO ANY CASE...

LET'S TAKE THIS FOR ANALYSIS!

YES. HOW ABOUT WE TAKE IT TO THE ANALYSIS TEAM AT DDS?

THERE IT IS! DO YOU SEE IT, KYU?

YES! PHEW!!

AH!

WE'VE BEEN WALKING FOR 20 MINUTES FROM THE MAIN GATE! WHERE IS THE HOUSE?!

DON'T WORRY, IT'LL BE OKAY...

W-WHA... RYU, THIS PLACE LOOKS SCARY!!

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HELLO? ANYONE AT HOME?

KIND OF LIKE MY HOUSE.

HUH? THAT'S WEIRD. IT LOOKS SMALL, THOUGH THE COURTYARD IS HUGE...

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HUH?!

DOG-HOUSE?! THIS HOUSE?!

OBVIOUSLY MY HOUSE IS MUCH BIGGER.

WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU DOING IN FRONT OF MY DOGHOUSE?!

K-KAZUMA!!

H-HEY, KYU?!

U-UWAAA!! HELPPP!!

ペロペロペロ

SO I CAME TO PICK YOU UP.

I FIGURED YOU TWO MUST BE TIRED...

HEY, MACINTOSH!

IS THAT A SCREEN-SAVER?

WOW, A FISH IS SWIMMING IN THE MONITOR!

OH, THAT'S ARTIFICAL LIFE!

EH?

WOW!!

SO THIS IS YOUR HOUSE, KAZUMA?!

NO, THIS IS JUST MY PERSONAL RESEARCH LAB ...

OR YOU COULD CALL IT MY HOBBY ROOM.*

YES! I DIDN'T KNOW YOU KNEW SO MUCH, RYU!

BUT THIS IS TYPE-A, RIGHT?

I HEARD UNIVERSITIES ARE CURRENTLY CONDUCTING A SIMILAR EXPERIMENT ...

AH, SO IT'S AN ANDROID PROGRAM YOU CREATED...

?

?

BASICALLY, IT'S A NEW COMPUTER PROGRAM.

IT'S A SIMULATION WHICH EXAMINES SYSTEMS RELATED TO LIFE, AND THEN STUDIES THE LOGIC OF LIVING SYSTEMS IN ARTIFICIAL ENVIRONMENTS...

USING THAT WE CAN ANALYZE THIS PICTURE WHICH WAS TAKEN A LONG TIME AGO!

BASICALLY, THIS IS A TECHNIQUE THAT IS USED BY THE POLICE AND THE FBI TO ANALYZE A BLURRED PHOTOGRAPH ...

SIMU-LATION?

VEC-TOR?

AFTER I SCAN IT, I'LL ENHANCE IT BY RUNNING A SIMULATION AND ANALYZE IT BY ADDING SOME VECTORS TO IT.

ANYWAY, PLEASE SHOW ME KUZURYUU TAKUMI'S PHOTOGRAPH ...

YES. IF IT'S TAKEN WITH A DIGITAL CAMERA, IT'D CONTAIN ABOUT SIX MILLION PIXELS, I THINK...

EVEN THOUGH IT'S OLD, IT MIGHT CONTAIN IMPORTANT INFORMATION, RIGHT?

C-COULD YOU GUYS PLEASE SPEAK NORMALLY ...

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OF COURSE!

SO, THIS IS KUZURYUU TAKUMI... HE LOOKS A LOT LIKE YOU, RYU!

SO, CAN YOU DO IT?

EH?

WAIT, IT'S NOT A TATTOO ...

THE ONLY EXPLANATION IS THAT IT'S A BIRTHMARK!

IT'S TOO MINISCULE TO BE PAINTED ONTO THE SKIN...

OKAY, THAT SEEMS TO BE CLEAR ENOUGH...

IT DOES LOOK LIKE A SYMBOL OR A SHAPE OF SOME SORT ...

AHA! NOW, LET ME FIX THIS PICTURE ...

HE'S TRYING TO ENHANCE THE IMAGE ...

WHAT'S HE DOING?

THE PHOTO IS IN BLACK AND WHITE, SO I'LL FOCUS ON SHARPENING THE BACKGROUND COLOURS...

MAYBE PUT THEM INTO SHARPER FOCUS AS A SEPIA, OR MAYBE AS LIGHT PURPLE...

WOW, THE COMPUTER CAN DO ALL THAT? AMAZING!

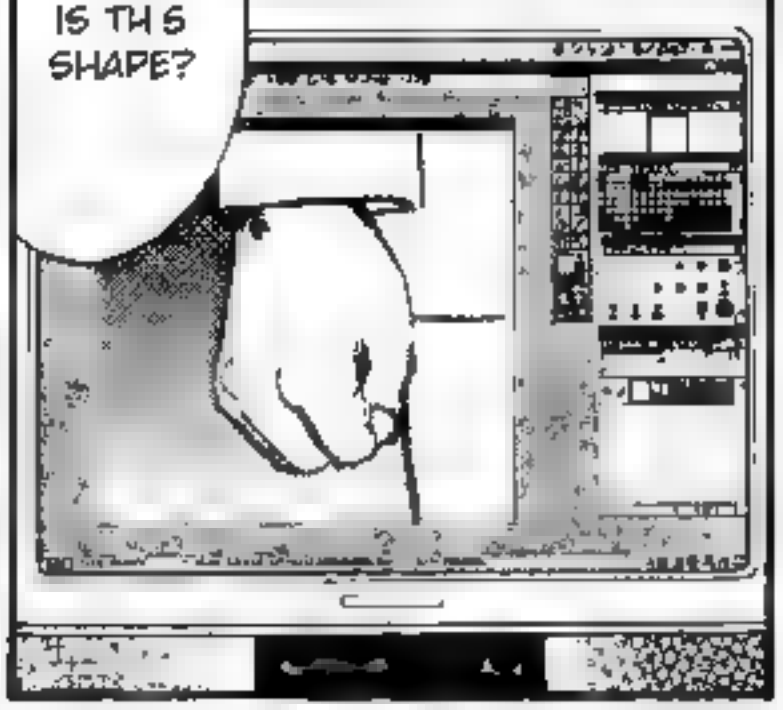
NO, KYU. KAZUMA IS THE ONE WHO IS AMAZING ...

AH, TOO BAD...

THIS WILL HAVE TO DO...

I CAN ONLY ENHANCE IT THIS MUCH. I CAN'T STRETCH THE PICTURE ANY FURTHER ...

SO, WHAT IS THIS SHAPE?



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IT IS HIS GENIUS WHICH IS HELPING US MAKE SO MUCH HEADWAY.

KAZUMA'S COMPUTER IS MERELY A TOOL ...

LET'S ENLARGE IT SOME MORE ...

T-THIS IS?!

THIS MARK RESEMBLES SOMETHING ...

T/L NOTE : MEIOSEI = PLUTO.

THE SYMBOL OF "MEIOSEI"!!!

THIS IS THE SYMBOL OF THE GOD OF DEATH, PLUTO IN ROMAN MYTHOLOGY, OR HADES AS HE IS CALLED IN GREEK.

IT LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE THAT BIRTHMARK!

!!

PLUTO IS THE ARCH-ENEMY OF DDS AND DAN-SENSEI ...

AND IT CLOSELY RESEMBLES THE BIRTH-MARK ON THE RIGHT HAND OF KUZURYUU TAKUMI...

WELL

...

COULD IT JUST BE A COINCIDENCE?

IT HAS TO BE A COINCIDENCE!!!

IF YOU'RE GOING TO CALL THIS SHEER COINCIDENCE...

EH?

IT HAS TO BE!!

MOM, I'M HOME!!

AAH, I'M HUNGRY TOO!

WHERE HAVE YOU TWO BEEN?!

SO, YOU DECIDED TO STAY SOMEPLACE AFTER JUST CALLING ME ONCE...

!!

WHAT ELSE?

EH?

YOU TOO, RYU!

ON THE TRAIL OF A MYSTERY ...

AH, THAT... WE WERE ...

I AM SORRY.

I-...

'M USED TO KYU BEING RECKLESS ALL THE TIME ...

YOU LOOK SO MATURE, BUT YOU MADE ME WORRY ABOUT YOU AS WELL!

RYU, YOU WANT TO GO FIRST?

SURE, BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU?

THE BATH IS READY ...

BOTH OF YOU TAKE A BATH BEFORE DINNER!

OKAY, MOM!

THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT YOU'RE SAFE.

OH WELL!

SO FIRST ON MY LIST...

IS FOOD!!

WELL, I'M STARVING ...

SUCH A GREAT MOTHER ...

SHE REALLY IS ...

カコン...

RYU
...

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT SOMEONE HAS SCOLDED ME...

BECAUSE THEY WERE WORRIED ABOUT ME...

!

.....

THAT BIRTHMARK
...

THERE'S NO MISTAKE
...

THAT MARK IS DEFINITELY
...

CREDITS
RAWS : SHERLUPIN
TRANSLATIONS : NAMRADUS
TYPESETTING : THE WATCHFUL GENT

DETECTIVE SCHOOL Q

Story: SEIMARU AMAGI
Art: FUMIYA SATO

CHAPTER 83:
KUZURYUU TAKUMI'S
SECRET CODE

探偵学園Q

THE PURPLE COLOUR OF THE DRAGON MOTIF IS SO BEAUTIFUL...

WOW, SO THIS IS THE CREATION OF KUZURYUU TAKUMI!

YOU CAN'T SEE IT PROPERLY IN THE PHOTO, BUT THE REAL ONE IS A LOT PRETTIER!

第83話　「九頭龍日記」の秘密

WELL, I TOOK A REALLY CLOSE LOOK AT IT!

YOU'RE REALLY SNEAKY, KYU!

YES. AND HE CERTAINLY KEPT HIS TECHNIQUES A SAFELY GUARDED SECRET..

IT LOOKS LIKE THE COLOUR PURPLE WAS LIKE KUZURYUU TAKUMI'S SIGNATURE...

WHAT IS IT, MEGU?

OH, I AM JUST TRYING TO REMEMBER IT WELL!

DOESN'T EVERY CREATION OF KUZURYUU TAKUMI CONTAIN A MYSTERY?

SO I THOUGHT THERE MIGHT BE ANOTHER MYSTERY IN THIS ONE AS WELL...

HE ONLY EVER MADE NINE DIFFERENT ARTWORKS, AND THEN HE STOPPED...

HMM...

IT'S PHOTO-GRAPHIC MEMORY!!

OW!!

JUST AS EXPECTED FROM MEGU'S TELEPATHIC MEMORY!

WOW, THAT'S PRETTY COOL!

THAT'S ALSO WHY I REMEMBER THE DIMENSIONS OF THE TESTA DI DRAGO DOWN TO THE INCH!

EH? YOU MEAN...

NOT THE SHI' UN-RYU, BUT THE OTHER ONE THAT KYU AND I GOT!

SOMETHING I HAPPENED TO F ND IN THIS CREATION OF KUZURYUU TAKUMI...

RYU? WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT?

A HIDDEN MYSTERY, HUH...

T/L NOTE : IN AN EARLIER CHAPTER, I'D WRITTEN THAT KUZURYUU TAKUMI MADE 9 PIECES OF EACH ARTWORK. THAT WAS A MISTAKE. HE MADE 9 DIFFERENT WORKS OF ART. MY BAD, SORRY!

THE DIARY OF KUZURYUU TAKUMI!!

!?

LOOK HERE!

GAH, IT'S ALL WRITTEN IN ENGLISH!

ACTUALLY, INSIDE IT ...

IS SOME-THING VERY NTERESTING ...

YOU MEAN THE DIARY ...

WHICH LOOKS LIKE IT WAS WRITTEN BY HIS BUTLER?

YES...

HERE, IT SAYS FIRST FLOOR, RIGHT?

YOU SEE ...

SO WHAT DOES IT SAY?

YOU CAN READ THAT, RYU? WELL I CAN'T EVEN BEGIN TO...

Up to the first floor

THE FIRST FLOOR THAT IS REFERRED HERE, SHOULD MEAN THE SECOND FLOOR...

IT SAYS, 'HERE, AFTER THEY ARRIVED WITH THE PAINTINGS, THEY WENT THROUGH THE DOOR, AND THEN "UP TO THE FIRST FLOOR" FROM THE BASEMENT.'

THE FIRST FLOOR ACTUALLY MEANS THE SECOND FLOOR!

SO COUNTING UPWARDS FROM THAT ...

Floor 3F
First Floor 2F
Grand Floor 1F

IN ENGLAND AND OTHER PLACES OF EUROPE, THE FIRST FLOOR IS CALLED THE GROUND FLOOR...

SO HOW CAN IT MEAN SECOND FLOOR?

EH? BUT 'FIRST' MEANS ONE, RIGHT?

BUT...

無視

OW! WHY'D YOU HIT ME?!

SHUT UP!

THEN WHAT'S THE THIRD FLOOR CALLED?

ER, YEAH! I-IT'S COMMON KNOW-LEDGE!

EHH?! KINTA, D'D YOU KNOW THAT??

WELL, THAT'S EASY, ISN'T IT, RYU?

IT'S NOT LIKE THAT...

THE "F RST FLOOR" HERE IS ONLY ONE FLOOR UP FROM THE BASEMENT ...

SO IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN CALLED THE "GROUND FLOOR" AND NOT THE "FIRST FLOOR" ..

IT SAYS HERE, "UP TO THE F RST FLOOR, FROM THE BASEMENT", IN THIS DIARY...

FIRST FLOOR, AND NOT THE SECOND FLOOR LIKE WE JUST DISCUSSED...

SO THAT MEANS, THE "F RST FLOOR" THAT IS REFERRED HERE, ACTUALLY DOES MEAN...

EVERYTHING ELSE IN THE DIARY IS JUST FINE, EXCEPT FOR THIS PART ...

I DON'T THINK HE'D WRITE IT DOWN INCORRECTLY WITHOUT ANY DEEPER PURPOSE ...

THEN WHY?

I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT EITHER ...

WOW, ALL THIS IS REALLY COMPLICATED ...

JAPANESE PEOPLE COULD MAKE TH S MISTAKE, BUT KUZURYUU TAKUMI STUDIED IN ENGLAND...

SO HE'D NEVER MAKE SUCH A MISTAKE!

OI OI! A CODE IN THIS DIARY? YOU THINK?

YES! IT COULD BE A RANDOM, MEANINGLESS, NUMBER OR EVEN A WORD ...

LIKE THIS ...

IT WOULD LOOK LIKE A NORMAL PARAGRAPH OF TEXT, BUT IT'D ACTUALLY BE A CODE...

EH?!

CONTAINS SOME SORT OF CODE?

DON'T TELL ME, THIS DIARY...

THIS IS JUST AN IMPROVISATION. MEGU, DO YOU UNDERSTAND THIS CODE HERE?

みんなで、夏休みに、みかん狩り。
めいっぱい、グループで、ミーティング。

EH?! ER, AH... WAIT A MINUTE...

I DON'T KNOW...

EH?

HMM ...

I SEE ...

AH, I'VE GOT IT!

AH! I KNOW!!

THAT AMONG THE FIVE OF US...

THERE IS ONE HINT ...

THIS IS JUST TOO EASY!

EH? A-AH, OF COURSE!

HEY, KINTA, YOU GOT IT TOO, RIGHT?

I GOT IT, BUT WHAT THE HELL...

I SEE ...

Y-YEAH, BUT THIS IS FOR THE READER*...

I THOUGHT YOU GOT IT ...

きっぱり

K-KAZUMA, WHY DON'T YOU DO THE HONOURS AND TELL US?

*T/L NOTE : LOL, BREAKING THE FOURTH WALL. THE ANSWER IS THAT IF YOU TAKE THE FIRST HIRAGANA OR KANJI OF EACH WORD, IT SPELLS OUT "MINAMI MEGUMI".

A SECRET MESSAGE FROM KUZURYUU TAKUMI?!

わ、
ぁ。

MAYBE THAT'S WHY THE DIARY IS PACKED WITH TEXT...

IT COULD BE TO HIDE THE SECRET MESSAGE HIDDEN AMONGST THEM!!

AH....

I'M GOING TO SOLVE IT!

OKAY!

I WONDER WHAT IT IS...

ABLE TO READ IT SINCE IT'S WRITTEN IN ENGLISH.

HAVE THOUGHT THERE WOULD BE A SECRET MESSAGE IN THIS DIARY..

KYU!!

M-MY HEAD IS SPINN NG ...

I NEVER IMAGINED RYU'D BE SO SMART ...

IT'S LUCKY HE'S ON OUR SIDE!

!

IT'S A KIND OF CODE WHICH YOU CAN ONLY CRACK WITH THE HELP OF A PASSWORD...

YOU COULD CALL IT A LOCKED CODE.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS CODE THEN, KAZUMA?

WHAT IS IT, KINTA?

A-AH, NOTH NG ...

?

MAYBE IT'S RELATED TO WHAT MEGU SA D EARLIER ...

EH?

WE DON'T KNOW IF IT'S IN SOME KIND OF BOOK OR ANYTHING ...

I SEE. SO, THAT MEANS KUZURYUU TAKUMI HID THE PASSWORD SOMEWHERE ...

WELL, IT PROBABLY IS NOT IN THIS DIARY, BUT SOMEWHERE SAFE...

ANYONE CAN READ THE DIARY, BUT THEY CAN'T SOLVE THE CODE ...

UNLESS THEY KNOW THE KEY, RIGHT?

HE MADE IT INTO A CODE SO ONLY A SPECIFIC SOMEONE COULD READ IT...

SO MAYBE IT IS SOME-THING REALLY IMPORTANT?

MAYBE THE KEY TO THE CODE LIES WITHIN ONE OF HIS CREATIONS?

!!

THE MYSTERIES BEHIND EACH CREATION OF KUZURYUU TAKUMI!

SO, THERE'S A REASON WHY HE ONLY EVER CREATED NINE WORKS OF ART?

T-THAT'S SO ROMANTIC!!

FOR THE LAST 10-20 YEARS, THERE'S NO WAY ALL OF HIS CREATIONS PERISHED...

THERE MUST BE SOME RECORD IN A MUSEUM OR A COLLECTOR MIGHT HAVE SOME WITH THEM!

THAT MAKES SENSE ...

I THINK YOUR DEDUCTION IS RIGHT, KYU...

S-SORRY!

IT'S NOTHING.

AH! DAN-SENSE!!

WHAT ARE YOU GUYS WHISPERING ABOUT?

IT'S OUR CASE! LET'S KEEP IT TO OUR-SELVES FOR NOW...

EH? ARE WE NOT GOING TO TELL HIM ABOUT THE DIARY?

OPEN YOUR BOOK ON MEDICAL SCIENCE. TURN TO PAGE NUMBER 54.

R-RIGHT!

STOP TALKING BACK THERE! THE CLASS IS ABOUT TO BEGIN.

AT THAT TIME, I DIDN'T EVEN THINK ABOUT ...

FOCUS, MEGU!

AHHH ...

THE MYSTERIES SURROUNDING KUZURYUU TAKUMI THAT WE HAD TALKED ABOUT BEFORE.

法医学

AND IT SO HAPPENED, THAT A CASE CONNECTED TO ONE OF THOSE MYSTERIES...

UNEXPECTEDLY FELL IN FRONT OF US.

キーンコーン カーンコーン

I WAS BARELY ABLE TO ANSWER HONGOU'S QUESTIONS...

HOW THE HELL IS RYU SO CALM?

AAHH... SO TIRED ...

ﾍﾅﾍﾅ

FUUU... I'M SO EXHAUSTED!

EH? TRAIN NG?

AS DESSERT... I WOULD LIKE TO GIVE YOU ALL SOME TRAINING!

THAT CONCLUDES TODAY'S LESSON...

THEN...

D-DO YOU MEAN A NEW CASE, DAN-SENSEI??

THAT'S RIGHT.

ZII

A CASE?!

EH?

YES.

KATAGIRI-KUN, THE PRINTOUTS PLEASE.

HOOO, THEIR EYES LIT UP INSTANTLY

THOSE WHO ENTER THE VALLEY OF THE HITOBASHIRA SHALL FACE THE WRATH OF MAYAHIME!

THIS IS ...

A THREATENING LETTER??

OUR CLIENT IS OBANA TOSHIYUK, THE SECRETARY OF TAKATOBI-SAN ..

ACCORDING TO HIM, TAKATOBI-SAN OWNS A VILLA IN JINCHU VILLAGE, WHERE A DAM S GOING TO BE BUILT ...

TAKATOBI-SAN WENT THERE A WEEK AGO TO OVERSEE THE CONSTRUCTION, AND THERE HAS BEEN NO NEWS OF HIM SO FAR.

HE IS A POLITICIAN AND A MEMBER OF THE PARLIAMENT

THAT'S RIGHT. IT WAS SENT TO TAKATOBI KATSUGORO ...

IT GOES BACK TO AN OLD LEGEND WHICH SAYS WHENEVER THERE WAS A BIG STORM ...

OH, I'VE HEARD OF THAT...

BUT WHAT IS TH S MAYAHIME?

THIS LETTER IS A LITTLE CREEPY

HMM, I SEE!

SO, TILL THIS DAY, THE RIVER WHERE THE DAM S BEING BUILT S A.SO CA..ED THE MAYAHIME RIVER.

A WOMAN NAMED "MAYAHIME" WOULD CHANGE INTO A BIG F..AM.NG DRAGON, AND STOP THE FLOOD WITH THE ASH FROM HER BODY...

I WONDER IF THERE IS ANY CONNECTION TO...

THE MYSTERIES OF KUZURYUU TAKUMI...

K-KUZURYU?!

WHICH IS AROUND THE KUZURYUGAWA RIVER!

SAYS HERE, THE SOURCE OF WATER FOR JINCHU VILLAGE COMES FROM THE MANGAWA PREFECTURE ...

WE..L, IF WE TRACE IT FROM THE BEGINNING, I THINK WE CAN F ND OUT IF THE TWO CASES ARE CONNECTED SOMEHOW!

THEREFORE. HE HAS ASKED DDS FOR HELP...

OUR CL ENT, OBANA-SAN FEEL.S THAT SOMETH NG MAY HAVE HAPPEND TO TAKAJOB - SAN...

...

MY INSTINCTS SAY THAT THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGE IN THIS CASE...

KUZURYU-GAWA, EH ...

SO I WANT ALL OF YOU TO GO AND CHECK IT OUT!

...

I HAVE HEARD THAT THERE ARE SOME PROBLEMS IN THE VILLAGE REGARDING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THIS DAM..

ONE MORE THING ...

BUT AM INTERESTED IN THE CONTENTS OF THIS LETTER ...

OF COURSE, IT COULD TURN OUT TO BE NOTHING...

...

WHAT IS TH S ...

HITO-BASHIRA?

HI A ...

WHAT IS IT, KYU?

EXCUSE ME, DAN-SENSEI!

H-HEY! SOMEONE PLEASE EXPLAIN IT TO ME!!

WHAT'S A HITO-BASHIRA?

SO WHAT DO YOU THINK THEY DID TO CALM THOSE GODS?

W-WHAT ...?

IT WAS CONSIDERED TO BE A CURSE FROM THE GODS!

IN OLDEN DAYS, EVERY SINGLE TIME A CONSTRUCTION PROJECT FAILED...

FINE, I'LL TELL YOU!

SO NOISY ...

THAT IS WHY THEY ARE CALLED "HITOBASHIRA"*!!

THEY WOULD PREPARE A SACRIFICE...

BY TYING HUMANS TO PILLARS AND BURYING THEM ALIVE UNDER THE FOUNDATIONS!!!

*T/L NOTE : HITOBASHIRA LITERALLY MEANS HUMAN PILLARS

DIDN'T YOU HEAR WHAT HAPPENED A WHILE BACK?

T-THEY BURY THEM ALIVE?!

EH?! SO THEY STILL DO THAT KIND OF RITUAL NOW?!

I-IT CAN'T BE!

HUMAN BONES WERE FOUND IN AN UPRIGHT POSITION, AS IF THEY WERE TIED TO PILLARS ...

IN SHOWA 43,* UNDER THE JOMON TUNNEL IN HOKKAIDO, THAT TOOK THREE YEARS TO BUILD ...

*T/L NOTE : SHOWA 43 = 1968.

WHAT IS IT?

EH?

ALSO, THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGE ...

SUCH RITUALS ARE NECESSARY TO ENSURE THE COMPLETION OF PROJECTS!

ACCORDING TO THE INTERNET, IN JINCHU VILLAGE ...

IN THE *MEIJI ERA, THE ASHES WERE MIXED WITH SAND AND THEN USED AS CONCRETE!!

THEY DIDN'T BURY THE HUMANS ALIVE. THE BURNT THEM ON PILLARS AND SPREAD THE ASHES ON THE GROUND...

*T/L NOTE : MEIJI ERA : 1868-1912

OH YEAH!

EH?

BY THE WAY, WHAT ABOUT THE CODE IN THE DIARY, KAZUMA?

SO THE PEOPLE WHO WORKED ON THE PROJECTS DIDN'T REALLY CARE ABOUT HUMAN LIFE, HUH?

MIXED WITH CONCRETE? THAT'S SO HORRIBLE!

YEAH, IT IS! LOOK, THERE IS A SIGN BOARD HERE ..

REALLY?

HEY GUYS ...

ISN'T THAT THE ONE?

REAL NAME?

YEAH ...

PERHAPS TO CONCEAL THE REAL NAME?

HM?

LOOKS LIKE THE NAME OF THE VILLAGE HAS BEEN CHANGED ...

JINCHU VILLAGE!

THE REAL NAME OF THE VILLAGE THAT WAS BUILT ON TOP OF HUMAN PILLARS...

RAWS : SHERLUPIN
CLEANING : KABUTO
TRANSLATIONS : PHIESELPHIE
TYPESETTING : THE WATCHFUL GENT

DETECTIVE SCHOOL Q

Story: SEIMARU AMAGI
Art: FUMIYA SATO

HELLO, IRREGULAR SCANS HERE!!

WE'RE LOOKING FOR DEDICATED FANS WHO CAN TRANSLATE DETECTIVE CONAN, KINDAICHI OR TANTEI GAKUEN Q FROM JAPANESE, CHINESE OR INDONESIAN, AS WELL AS PEOPLE WHO CAN CLEAN THE RAWS.

PLEASE MESSAGE US ON BATOTO AT THE USERNAME THEWATCHFULGENT OR MAIL US AT HIGHSCHOOLDETECTIVE@YAHOO.FR IF YOU ARE INTERESTED. PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD SO THAT YOUR FAVOURITE SERIES CAN BE RELEASED WITHOUT DELAY.

THANKS A LOT, AND KEEP SUPPORTING THE SERIES AS YOU ALWAYS HAVE!!!

EMPTY HOUSES EVERYWHERE ...

JINCHU VILLAGE IS LIKE SOME SORT OF A GHOST TOWN.

WELL, IT IS TO BE EXPECTED, SINCE THE VILLAGE IS GOING TO BE FLOODED SOON.

THE VILLAGERS SHOULD BE SATISFIED WITH THE AMOUNT OF MONEY THEY GOT TO LEAVE THEIR HOMES.

WHAT IF IT WAS YOUR TOWN WHICH WAS GONNA BE DROWNED, EH?

TSK! ONLY YOU CAN THINK LIKE THAT, KAZUMA ...

IF IT WAS ME, I'D ...

OI, YOU THERE!!

HLPP!

UH!

THAT COULD HAVE CAUSED A BIG INJURY, Y'KNOW!

WHY DID YOU THROW THAT AT US?

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

!

!!

GO AWAY, ALL OF YOU!

YOU GUYS ARE HERE TO HELP THAT ROTTEN POLITICIAN, AREN'T YOU??

YOU WANT TO SEE OUR VILLAGE DROWNED IN THE BOTTOM OF THE LAKE TOO, JUST LIKE HE DOES!

HA?!

STOP IT, MUSASHI!

!

MUSASHI HACHIYA (14)

VILLAGE BOY

YES ...

THAT'S US!

NATSUMI, ARE YOU THERE?

YES, GRANDPA!

WELCOME TO JINCHU VILLAGE. I HOPE YOU FIND YOUR STAY HERE PLEASANT.

WE HAVE BEEN IN WAIT FOR YOU...

G-GRANDPA MOZU!!

AM I RIGHT IN SAYING THAT YOU ARE THE DETECTIVES WHO WERE ASKED TO COME BY OBANA-SAN, THE SECRETARY OF TAKATOBI-SAN?

TOMEZO MIZU (70)

JINCHU VILLAGE HEAD

O-OK ...

THIS WAY, PLEASE.

DAMNED TRAITOR!

UNDER-STOOD!

TAKE THESE GUESTS TO THE VILLAGE INN. MAKE SURE THEY ARE TREATED WELL.

NATSUMI MIZU (14)

VILLAGE HEAD'S GRANDDAUGHTER

WELL...

LOOKS LIKE THE SITUATION SN'T TOO GOOD ...

.....

IT LOOKS LIKE TH S POLITICIAN IS A MAN WHO FORCES H S WILL ON OTHERS...

THERE WILL CERTAINLY BE THOSE WHO BACK THE PROJECT AS WELL AS THOSE WHO OPPOSE IT ...

AMONG THE VILLAGERS WHO LEFT...

THOSE WHO ENTER THE VALLEY OF THE HITOBASHIRA ALL FACE E WRATH YAHIME!

IT MEANS THAT SOMEBODY IS TRYING TO STOP TAKATOBI-SAN'S PLANS.

BUT NOW, JUDGING BY THIS BLACKMAIL ...

JUDGING BY HOW THE INN HAS PROVIDED QUARTERS FOR TAKATOBI-SAN AND HIS MEN ...

COULD IT BE THAT THE INN-KEEPERS BACK THE PROJECT?

BUT I REALLY DO PREFER THEM BOTH CUTE AS WELL AS MATURE ...

WELCOME ...

EVEN IF SHE IS A LITTLE YOUNG, I THINK NATSUMI IS SWEET IN HER OWN WAY ...

NOT AGAIN, KINTA!

COME IN. THE INN IS A LITTLE DIRTY, BUT IT IS ONE OF THE OLDEST BUILDINGS OF THE VILLAGE.

AH, THANK YOU!

I THOUGHT OBANA-SAN WAS HIS SECRETARY ...

THANK YOU!

"AH"

A POLITICAN OFTEN HAS MORE THAN ONE SECRETARY...

PLEASE, THE HEAD SECRETARY, OBANA-SAN IS WAITING FOR YOU.

I AM JUST A SUBORDINATE...

MY NAME IS YURI HITSUKI ...

I AM TAKATOBI-SAN'S SECRETARY.

DON'T TALK STUPID STUFF LIKE THAT!!

I KNOW! SHE MUST BE THE POLITICIAN'S GIRLFRIEND!

SHE'S SO PRETTY! EVEN HER SUIT IS PERFECTLY TAILORED.

YURI HITSUKI (24)

SECRETARY OF TAKATOBI KATSUGORO

IN HERE ...

YOU LOOK PRETTY DIOTIC WITH THAT FACE ...

LOOK AT HER PURE EYES! THERE'S NO WAY SHE'S SOMETHING LIKE THAT!

THANK YOU FOR COMING THIS FAR.

GREETINGS, I AM TOSHIYUKI OBANA, THE HEAD SECRETARY OF TAKATOBI-SAN...

TOSHIYUKI OBANA (42)

HEAD SECRETARY OF TAKATOB KATSUGORO

PLEASE COME IN.

AH, YOU'VE FINALLY COME! I'M GORA FROM THE KANAKI CONSTRUCTION COMPANY. NICE TO MEET YOU.

HISASHI GORA (45)

SUPERVISOR OF KANAKI CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

TOYAMA.

KAZUMA NARUSAWA HERE.

I AM M.NAMI, HELLO!

MY NAME IS KYU!

I AM RYU.

huff!
EH?
IF YOU'RE WORRIED, I CAN GIVE YOU A QUICK DEMO...
I-I MEAN, YOU CAN'T BE OLDER THAN AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLER, RIGHT?
W-WOW, DETECTIVES THESE DAYS ARE SURE YOUNG...
AS FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THIS DAM PROJECT...
COMPARED TO SEVERAL OTHER NATIONAL COMPANIES, THAT IS STILL PRETTY LARGE...
YOU HAVE AN AVERAGE ANNUAL TURN-OVER OF 300 MILLION YEN, AND YOU EMPLOY 180 PEOPLE...
THE KANAKI CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, HQ AT F CITY, IN THE FUKUI PREFECTURE ...
DDS IS AS GREAT AS EVER, DESPITE THEIR DETECTIVES BEING SO YOUNG. I UNDER-ESTIMATED YOU ...
A-AH! I UNDERSTAND NOW...
WOW, THIS TENDER IS ALMOST A SMALL FORTUNE!
HO, LOOKS LIKE YOU MANAGED TO GET A CON-TRACT AFTER PAYING SUCH A LARGE TENDER..
DAN-SENSEI SAID THAT HE FELT THERE WAS SOME KIND OF CORRUPTION GOING ON, SO I JUST INVESTIGATED IT ON THE WAY HERE!
EH? DON'T BE LIKE THAT ...
HEY, KAZUMA. DON'T YOU THINK YOUR ATTITUDE TO-WARDS THE CLIENT WAS A LITTLE OVER THE TOP?
whisper whisper
C-COME, OBANA-SAN, LET'S GO...
Y-YES!
WE'LL WAIT BY THE FRONT DOOR. THEN, LET'S ALL GO TO TAKATOBI-SAN'S VILLA.

TAKUMI JINNAI. SO YOU'RE A FREELANCE JOURNALIST.

TAKUMA JINNAI

FREELANCE JOURNALIST

THAT'S RIGHT. I'M ON THE TRAIL OF THE SHADY CORRUPTION DEAL THAT KID WAS TALKING ABOUT.

HERE'S MY CARD.

AH, SORRY, I FORGOT TO INTRODUCE MYSELF...

TAKUMA JINNAI (28)

FREELANCE JOURNALIST

BRAVO! OUTSTANDING DISPLAY YOU JUST PUT ON ...

HM? AND YOU ARE?

HOW ABOUT WE MAKE AN EXCHANGE? I TELL YOU EVERYTHING I KNOW...

WELL, SINCE BOTH OF US ARE WORKING ON THE SAME SIDE...

AH, SO YOU'RE THE STRICT TYPE, I GET IT!

YES, WHY?

OOH, HERE'S A CUTE GIRL! ARE YOU FROM DDS TOO, MISS?

HUFF!

I UNDERSTAND, JINNAI-SAN!

HUH, YOU'VE REALLY GOT SOME NERVE ...

IN EXCHANGE, YOU WILL TELL ME IF YOU FIND ANYTHING!!

SO TELL US EVERYTHING YOU KNOW!

BUT YOU SHOULD GO FIRST...

AH?

I'LL TELL YOU ALL THAT WE KNOW ABOUT THIS CASE!

DAMMIT, KYU!

TOMO-M

KYU MADE FRIENDS WITH THAT GUY SO EASILY. MAYBE THAT'S HIS SECRET WEAPON.

IT'S CALLED GULLIBILITY.

A-AH, NOT REALLY...

YOU'RE A PRETTY INTERESTING KID, YOU KNOW THAT? HAHAHA!

ごめ。

AND FOLLOWING THAT, HE LOST HIS DAUGHTER-IN-LAW TO AN ILLNESS AS WELL...

STARTING WITH THE OWNER OF THIS INN, GRANDPA MOZU. FIVE YERS AGO, HIS SON DIED IN AN ACCIDENT ON THE SITE OF THE DAM PROJECT ...

WELL ...

BUT I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF HE SECRETLY WANTS TO KILL THEM ALL!

EH?! WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

SO NOW, HE RUNS THE VILLAGE INN WITH HIS ONLY GRANDDAUGHTER, NATSUMI...

THE INN IS OPEN TO EVERYONE, EVEN TAKATOBI AND HIS MEN ...

THAT'S ENOUGH REASON TO WANT THEM DEAD.

.....

AND NOW, TAKATOBI IS EITHER BRIBING OR STRONG-ARMING THE ENTIRE VILLAGE JUST FOR THE R OWN BENEFIT...

WELL, H S ONLY SON DIED DUE TO TAKATOBI'S CRAPPY DAM PROJECT ...

M-MURDERED??

THAT'S WHY HE TR ED TO STOP THE PROGRESS OF THE PROJECT AS MUCH AS HE CAN...

WELL, THAT BOY'S BROTHER WAS MURDERED BY TAKATOBI AND THE KANAKI CONSTRUC-TION GROUP...

.....

AH, YES! WHAT ABOUT THAT BOY, MUSASHI, WHO THREW A ROCK AT US?

OH, YOU WERE ATTACKED TOO, HUH?

WHAT WOULD MY BROTHER SAY IF HE SAW YOU LIKE THIS?

OH, YOU'RE HERE, MUSASHI ...

DON'T YOU DARE TALK LIKE THAT! YOU GREEDY PIG!

KIRIM

.....

AH, DDS PEOPLE!!

EH?

GET OUT OF MY VILLAGE!

YOU'RE STILL HERE...?

MUSASHI...!

THE CAR IS READY, SO ...

!

OR BETTER, YOU CAN STAY. THEN, YOU WILL TRULY FEEL..

THE CURSED FLAMES OF MAYAHIME'S HITOBASHIRA!

ザワ ザワ

THE CURSED FLAMES...

OF MAYAHIME'S HITOBASHIRA??

HEH, WHAT COINCIDENCE?

I DON'T THINK THAT'S THE CASE ...

HA HA HA

EH? AREN'T WE GOING TO TAKATOBI-SAN'S VILLA?

YES, WE ARE. COINCIDENTALLY, HIS VILLA IS QUITE NEAR THE DAM SITE

SO... ARE WE GOING A LONG WAY?

YES, AS IT'S A DAM SITE, IT'S LOCATED VERY FAR ...

HE PLANS ON LIVING THERE EVEN AFTER THE PROJECT IS COMPLETE!

AND TO ENSURE THAT THE PRICE OF THE VILLA KEEPS RISING ...

日を作る政治を！

SO, WHEN THE PROJECT IS COMPLETE, THE VILLA WILL GO FOR A MUCH HIGHER PRICE...

HE BUILT THAT VILLA EVEN BEFORE THE PROJECT STARTED...

KINTA, YOU'RE TOO LOUD!

WHAT KIND OF A POLITICIAN IS THAT GUY??

ARGH! DAMN TWO-FACED MAN...

ヒソヒソ

ヒソヒソ

EH?! HE DID IT FOR THAT??

AND THIS IS TAKATOBI-SAN'S VILLA ...

HUH?

YES, THIS IS WHERE THE BUILDING MATERIALS ARE STORED ...

WHOA ...

WE'VE ARRIVED AT THE SITE!

WHAT A SKIN-FLINT. HE BUILT IT FOR THE COMPENSATION HE'D GET...

I BET IT WAS BUILT BY THE KANAKI COMPANY.

TO GO TO SUCH EXTENTS ...

ぱ" ぱ"

T-THAT'S JUST A CONCRETE WAREHOUSE ...

A-AH. HE JUST LIKES IT THAT WAY...

EH?

THIS ACTUALLY BODES WELL FOR US...

CALM DOWN, KINTA ...

I'M GOING HOME!!

I WON'T BE ABLE TO LOOK AT THE FACES OF MY ANCESTORS IF I BE A DETECTIVE FOR HIM!

DAMN!! THIS PISSES ME OFF!

AH, I GET IT!!

AS DETECTIVES, WE'VE ALREADY MADE PROGRESS IN THE CASE!!

RIGHT, RYU?

. . . . . !!

IT'S GOOD THAT WE'VE UNCOVERED SUCH THINGS ...

SINCE OUR MISSION IS TO INVESTGATE THE CORRUPTION THAT TAKATOBI-SAN IS DOING ...

LOOK!

IT'S A MANTIS!!

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?

.....

がば

GOTCHA!

!?

TOMO-M

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HEY, YOU'RE RIGHT...

LOOK, THERE ARE SOOT MARKS ALL OVER THE VENTILATION WINDOW...

THERE'S SOME-TH NG STRANGE ON THAT VILLA ...

EH? WHAT IS IT?

MORON!

HM?

OWW!!

COULD IT BE... THAT THERE WAS A FIRE?!

DO YOU HAVE THE KEY TO THE VILLA?

Y-YES, HERE...

WHAT ABOUT TAKATOBI-SAN??

E-EH?! OH NO!!

W-WHAT'S GOING ON?

OBANA-SAN! THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN A FRE INSIDE THE VILLA!

DAMN!!!

I THINK THERE'S SOMETHING THAT'S BLOCKING IT FROM THE OTHER SIDE!

RYU, THE DOOR ISN'T OPEN NG!

MOVE, KYU!

LET ME TRY!!

OF COURSE! LEAVE IT TO ME!!

KINTA, CAN YOU OPERATE THAT BULL-DOZER??

IN THAT CASE...

IT'S NOT USE! IT CAN'T BE BROKEN!!

THE DOOR MUST BE BLOCKED BY SOMETHING HEAVY!

ガッ

DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE A PART-TIME CONSTRUCTION WORKER!!!

ガガガガ

!!

THIS IS ...

A GIANT BLOCK OF CONCRETE IS INSIDE THE VILLA!!

NO WONDER THE DOOR WOULDN'T BUDGE... THIS THING MUST WEIGH A TON!!

WHAT'S INSIDE, KINTA?

.....

WHY IS IT HERE, THOUGH?

!

T-TAKA-TOBI-SAN?!
KYAAAHHH!!!
!?

!!

EVERYBODY, PLEASE CALM DOWN!!!

grip!

DDS WILL HANDLE THE SCENE FROM HERE ON...

TOKO-M

IT'S BEEN CLOSED AND LOCKED FROM THE INSIDE!

MEGU, HOW'S THE DOOR?

O-OKAY!

WE'D BETTER SPLIT UP AND CHECK ALL PARTS OF THE WARE-HOUSE.

NO, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT...

EH?!

SO NOBODY COULD GO IN OR OUT, RIGHT?

W-WAIT A MINUTE... WASN'T THE CONCRETE BLOCK PUT IN FRONT OF THE DOOR??

DOES THAT MEAN TAKATORI-SAN PLACED IT THERE AND THEN COMMITTED SUICIDE BY SETTING FIRE TO THE PLACE?

KAZUMA, HOW ABOUT THE VENTI-LATION?

IT'S KEPT OPEN, BUT I DON'T THINK ANYTHING BIGGER THAN A HAND CAN GO THROUGH.

HE MUST HAVE BEEN STRANGLED!!

EVEN MORE OBVIOUSLY, THERE IS A TRACE OF A WIRE ON THE BACK OF HIS NECK...

THAT MEANS HE WAS SET AFLAME AFTER HE WAS KILLED ...

LOOK CLOSER... THOUGH HIS BODY HAS BEEN BURNED, HIS MOUTH AND NOSE HAVE NOT...

YES!

A LOCKED ROOM MURDER?!

SO, THIS IS...

INSIDE A COMPLETELY LOCKED ROOM!!!

A PERFECT CRIME THAT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO BE DONE...

探偵学園Q

RAWS : SHERLUPIN
TRANSLATIONS : PHIESELPHIE
TYPESETTING : THE WATCHFUL GENT

DETECTIVE SCHOOL Q

Story: SEIMARU AMAGI
Art: FUMIYA SATO

SO, THIS IS A LOCKED ROOM MURDER??

AND THE FRONT DOOR WAS BLOCKED BY THIS HUGE BLOCK OF CONCRETE.

THERE IS ONLY A SMALL OUTLET FOR VENTILATION, WHICH IS ONLY BIG ENOUGH FOR A KID'S ARM TO GO THROUGH ...

TAKATOBI-SAN'S MOUTH AND NOSE SHOW NO SIGNS OF BURNS OR INHALATION OF ASH...

AND THERE IS A TRACE OF A WIRE ON THE BACK OF HIS NECK...

THIS MEANS THAT SOMEONE STRANGLED TAKATOBI-SAN OUTSIDE THE VILLA, THEN BROUGHT THE BODY HERE AND SET FIRE TO THE ENTIRE THING ...

T-TAKATOBI-SAN... WHY...?

.....

IT SEEMS SO, YES ...

探偵学園Q

第85話 魔矢姫伝説殺人事件 2

I WONDER WHO WILL BE NEXT? HA HA HA HA HA!!

W-WHAT THE HELL ...

HITOBASHIRA? RAGING FLAMES OF MAYAHIME?!

AND HE WAS ENGULFED IN THE RAGING FLAMES OF MAYAHIME!!

THAT ROTTEN POLITICIAN WANTED TO DROWN OUR VILLAGE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE LAKE ...

HAH... HE'S THE FIRST HITOBASHIRA ...!

EH?! YOU... YOU'RE THAT MUSHASHI KID!!

H-HE CONFESSED!

HA, IT'S USELESS ...

QUICK! CALL THE POLICE!!

THE POLICE CAN'T CATCH ME THAT EASILY...

THERE WAS A BIG BLOCK OF CONCRETE BLOCKING THE ENTRANCE, RIGHT?

BESIDES, I WAS LOOKING AROUND HERE WHEN YOU BROKE DOWN THE DOOR...

I WAS THE ONE WHO BURNT TAKATOBI. WHAT'CHA GONNA DO ABOUT IT, OLD MAN?

YEAH... THAT'S RIGHT...

HEY... COULD IT BE...

TO STOP THIS DAM PROJECT, YOU WERE THE ONE WHO...

!!

AGAIN, WITH THAT LEGEND, MUSASHI?

JINNA!!!

ACCORDING TO THE REFUGES OF THE TAIRA CLAN WHO BUILT THIS VILLAGE...

I TOLD YOU, DIDN'T I? IT'S THE CURSE OF MAYAHIME!! AND YOU'RE ALL NEXT!!

UGH ...

EVEN IF YOU SCREAM THAT I'M THE KILLER ...

THE POLICE CAN'T CATCH ME WITHOUT PROVING HOW I DID THE CRIME!!

THAT'S THE ORIGIN OF THE MAYAHIME LEGEND, AND HOW THE VILLAGE GOT ITS NAME!!

.....

BY STOPPING THE FLOW OF WATER WITH THE ASH FROM THE FLAMES ...

AND PREVENTED THE RIVER FROM FLOODING ...

ONCE, DURING A HEAVY RAINFALL, MAYAHIME TURNED INTO A FLAME DRAGON ...

IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, THE DEATH OF TAKATOBI-SAN, WHO WANTED TO FLOOD VILLAGE...

IF I WRITE AN ARTICLE ON THAT, IT'LL BE INTERESTING AS WELL AS DRAMATIC, I THINK, FUFUFUFU....

IS EERILY SIMILAR TO THE LEGEND WHICH I JUST TOLD YOU NOW...

WELCOME, INSPECTOR MINE!!

DDS?

THOSE CHILDREN... THEY SAID THEY ARE FROM Q CLASS OF DDS ..!

THANK YOU... WHO ARE THE WITNESSES OF THE CASE?

KAZUSHI MINE (28)

INSPECTOR OF THE FUKUI PREFECTURE

THANK YOU FOR COMING!

MOVE AS DE, K D.

AH, LOOKS LIKE IT'S THE POLICE ...

AH, BUT WE HAVE PERMISSION TO WORK WITH THE POLICE ON THIS CASE...

WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF INTERFERING...

CIVILIANS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO WANDER AROUND THE CRIME SCENE!!

!?

BUT I'M THE ONE WHO IS SOLELY IN CHARGE OF THIS INVESTIGATION! ME, KAZUSHI M.NE, INSPECTOR OF THE FUKU PREFECTURE!

I DON'T GIVE A DAMN WHAT THE HIGHER-UPS SAY ...

WELL, I THINK YOU ALL ARE INTERFERING!

??

BUT ONLY AS WITNESSES, MIND YOU!

I'LL LISTEN TO YOUR STATEMENTS LATER...

ANYWAY, YOU'RE JUST KIDS, EVEN IF YOU DID FIND THE BODY...

JERK!!

SSH, QUIET!

W-WHAT THE HELL IS THAT GUY?!

YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT...

AND IT WILL HURT DAN-SENSEI'S PRIDE IF WE DO ANYTHING WRONG...

LOOKS LIKE WE'LL TAKE A BACKSEAT WITH THIS ONE...

WE MUSN'T DO ANYTHING BY OURSELVES ...

MO-M

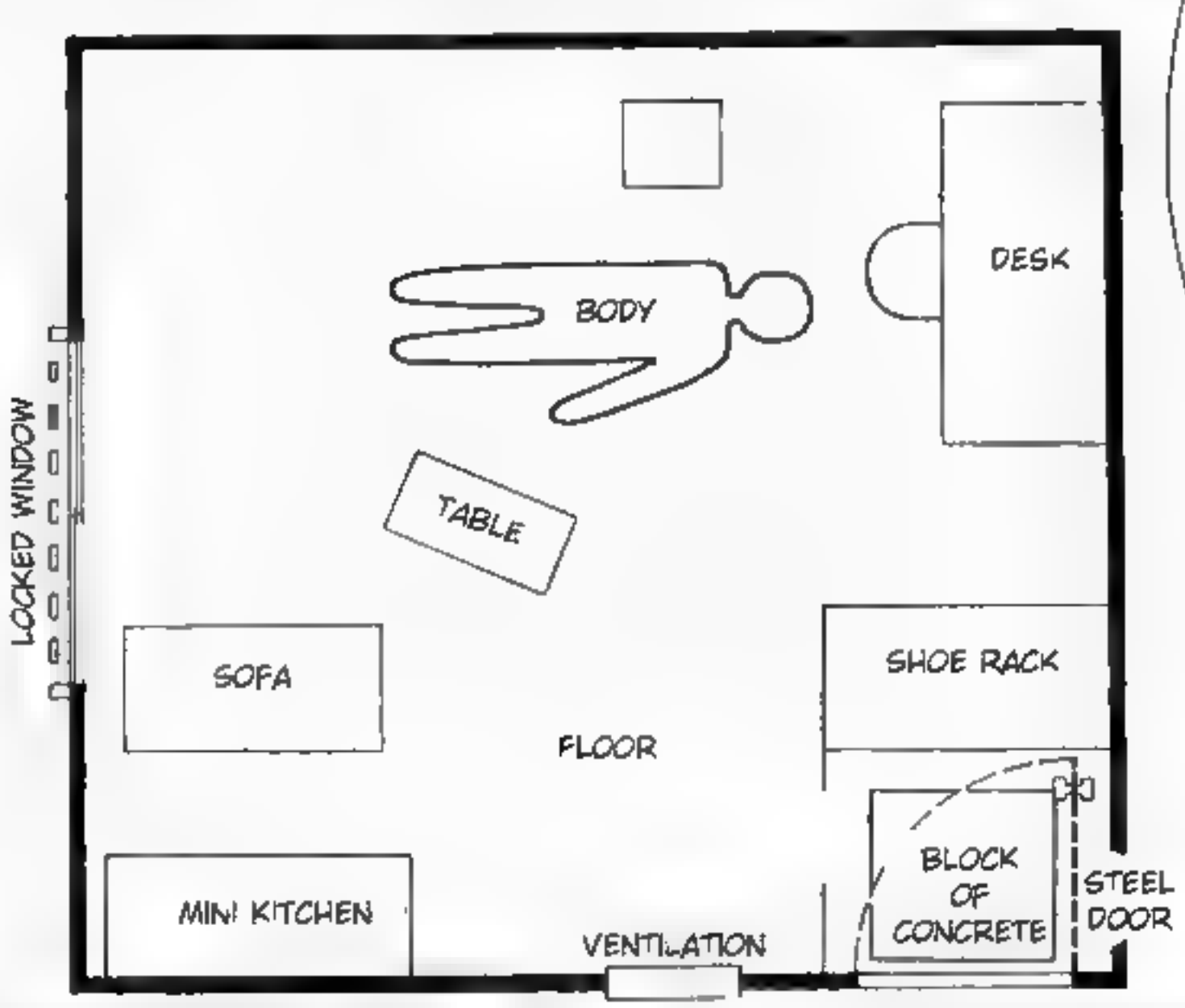
PLEASE LOOK AT TH S...

RIGHT ...

KAZUMA, SHOW HIM.

SO, HOW DO YOU GUYS SAY THIS IS A LOCKED ROOM MURDER?

THIS WAS HOW THE CRIME SCENE LOOKED LIKE WHEN WE WENT IN...



ENOUGH! STICK TO GIVING YOUR STATEMENT, LEAVE THE AUTOPSY TASK TO THE MEDICAL EXAMINER!

SO THERE'S NO WAY THE CULPRIT COULD GET OUT! FROM OBSERVATIONS I MADE, THE VICTIM DIED 3 DAYS AGO, AND ...

...

FWA

IT'S GOT TO BE A LOCKED ROOM MURDER, RIGHT?

IF A BLOCK OF CONCRETE WAS PUT IN THE ROOM, BEFORE A DOOR THAT CAN ONLY BE OPENED FROM INSIDE ...

THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE! WE CHECKED THE ROOM MANY TIMES, RIGHT?

Y-YES... THERE IS NO OTHER DOOR IN THE ROOM ...

YOU PROBABLY MISSED SOMETHING IN THE ROOM, LIKE A SECRET DOOR OF SOME SORT.

GOT THAT? BESIDES, THIS CAN'T POSSIBLY BE A LOCKED ROOM MURDER ...

WHAT?

THEN THE ANSWER IS SIMPLE!

FOR WHATEVER REASON, TAKATOBI-SAN COMMITTED SUICIDE IN THE ROOM AND MADE IT LOOK LIKE A LOCKED ROOM MURDER...

THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED!!

PLEASE WAIT...

DETECTIVE MINE!!

HOW CAN YOU BE SURE? YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY KNOW WHAT WAS GOING ON IN HIS MIND ...

SO HE BECAME DEPRESSED, AND THEN COMMITTED SUICIDE!

FOR EXAMPLE, THIS DAM PROJECT IS NOT GOING SO SMOOTHLY, IS IT?

S-SUICIDE ...?!

Y-YES! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!!

N-NO WAY! HE WOULD NEVER...!

NO, IT'S JUST... DON'T YOU FEEL THERE ARE TOO MANY PUZZLES LEFT TO BE SOLVED IN THE CASE?

HUH, SO YOUR NAME IS KYU, IS IT?

ARE YOU TRYING TO STALL THE CASE?

IN THIS SITUATION, IT'S TOO EARLY TO RULE THIS AS A SUICIDE!!

!!

KYU?!

EH? LIFT IT?

CAN YOU TRY AND LIFT IT, DETECTIVE?

FOR EXAMPLE, THE CONCRETE THAT WAS BLOCKING THE DOOR...

GAHHH ...

NO DICE, SIR! EVEN TWO PEOPLE CAN BARELY MOVE IT, NEVER MIND LIFT IT!

UH ...

ズ

HUFF ...

ズズ

SIR!

OI, YOU! LIFT THAT!

HELP ME...

IT'S USELESS TO DO IT ALONE ...

HOW COULD A SMALL MAN LIKE TAKATOBI-SAN HAVE MANAGED IT?

SEE?

WHEN TWO WELL-BUILT AND FIT POLICE-MEN ARE FAILING TO EVEN MOVE IT ...

IT'S IMPO-SSIBLE TO BE CALLED A SUICIDE!

NO WAY ...

THE VICTIM FIRST CARRIED THE BIG BLOCK OF CON-CRETE INTO THE ROOM.

CLOSED THE DOOR BEHIND HIM, AND THEN PLACED THE BLOCK IN FRONT OF THE DOOR, AND THEN COMMITTED SUICIDE.

スタスタ

HE'S RIGHT ...

IF THIS IS A SUICIDE LIKE YOU SAID, DETECTIVE ...

FINE, HE WAS MURDERED, THEN. BUT HOW?

THIS KID ...

THAT, I'M SURE OF!!

WE CONCEDE THAT WE HAVE NOT GOTTEN THAT FAR, YET ...

BUT I KNOW THAT IF THE RIDDLE OF THE LOCKED ROOM IS NOT SOLVED, NEITHER WILL THE MURDER BE...

ドドド

GAH!!

UKH!!

YEAH! THIS IS THE F RST TIME THAT I'VE SEEN SOMEONE LOOK DOWN ON DDS!

THAT SNOB DETECTIVE IS ONLY SLOWING US DOWN ...

HUH, DAMMIT ...

ちゃぽん

HEY, KYU... YOU TOO ...

A HOT BATH AFTER AN ANALYSIS IS SO GREAT!!

WAAH, SO THIS IS A HOT BATH!!

IT'S SO MUCH FUN!!

WOW... THIS BATH IS SO BIG!

すいーーむ

CHEST SWIMMING STYLE!!!

HE LOOKS LIKE AN IDIOT FROM ALL SIDES

AND HE WAS DEBATING SO SERIOUSLY WITH THAT DETECTIVE ..

HEY, KYU! YOU CAN'T JUMP LIKE THAT WHEN THERE ARE OTHERS IN THE BATH, IDIOT!

MY GLASSES ARE WET ...

SORRY ABOUT THAT! BUT LOOK AT THIS ...!

COULD IT BE... THAT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME YOU'RE TAKING A HOT SPRING BATH?

YOUR SKIN TONE IS STRANGE ...

HOW IS THE WATER TEMPERATURE?

ハイ

BUT ANYWAY ...

AH, NO ...

DOES IT SEEM THAT WAY?

RYU! IT'S YOU!

STOP IT!!

WHAT'S THE MATTER, RYU? DO YOU LACK CONFIDENCE?

W-WAIT, WHAT ARE YOU DOING, KENTA?!

WHEN YOU'RE AROUND MEN, THE TOWEL IS NOT NECESSARY!!

ガバッ

EEHH?!

ガリ!

ALONG WITH THAT SECRETARY AND THE POLITICIAN'S LOVER, YUR-SAN!!

THAT'S MEGU'S VOICE...

PHEW!

チャポン

EH, WHERE?

IT'S CLEAR, ISN'T IT?

COME ON, KYU!

I DON'T WANT TO. I'M UNDERAGE, SO I CAN GO IN AND OUT ANYTIME PLEASE...

IGNORE THAT SNOB KID...

DON'T DO IT, KINTA! PEEPING IS A CRIME, YOU KNOW!!

DON'T BE STUPID, RYU! CONSIDER IT A WAY OF DEEPEN NG OUR RELA-TIONSHIP!

LET'S GO, KYU...

EH... KYU?

GONE !!!

ガラガラ

YES, THE TEMPERATURE IS A BIT LOW, BUT IT'S SO NICE...

WOW, THIS BATH IS GREAT, HITSUKI-SAN!!

!?

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I WANT TO TAKE A PEEK AT THIS HEAVEN BEHIND THE WALL!

キリリッ

HA!

EEHH?!

OH, YOU'RE MORE INTO IT THAN I AM...

いえいえ

WHAT'RE YOU DAWDLING FOR, KINTA? WE DON'T HAVE ALL DAY, YOU KNOW?

!?

THAT I WILL BE THE NEXT HITOBASHIRA ...

EVEN SO ...

I'M VERY AFRAID ...

YOU WERE JUST A SECRETARY, YOU D DN'T DO ANYTH NG WRONG...

DON'T LOOK SO DOWN, YURI-SAN ...

THE K LLER WANTS TO ELIMINATE ALL THOSE WHO WERE CLOSE TO TAKATOBI-SAN AND THE KANAKI COMPANY, WHO ARE IN CHARGE OF THE PROJECT...

TO STOP THE DAM PROJECT!

EVEN MUSASHI SAID IT WAS THE CURSE ...

THE PERSON WHO KILLED TAKATOBI-SAN DID IT FOR THE SAME REASON ...

WELL, THAT'S ...

PERHAPS, BUT WHY WOULD HE TARGET YOU, WHO ARE JUST A SECRETARY?

TRAITOR?!

I AM A TRAITOR!
BECAUSE ...

DO YOU ALSO TH NK I AM A TRAITOR, NATSUMI-CHAN?
NO, I DON'T. BESIDES, I DON'T FEEL ANY RELATION TO THIS VILLAGE...

NATSUMI-CHAN...

MAYBE BECAUSE OF THAT...

I'M MORE OF A TRAITOR THAN YOU ARE...

EH? A TRAITOR, YOU SAY?

YEAH... AND YURI-SAN...

AND WHY DID SHE CALL HER-SELF A TRAITOR?

HMM, YURI-SAN WAS SO SAD ...

. WONDER WHY THAT MUSASHI BOY HATES HER...

K-KYU, YOU MORON!!

AND? WHAT ABOUT YURI-SAN? GO ON!

EH?

KYAAAHHHH!!!!

ボコ

E-ENOUGH, MEGU...

WE WERE JUST FOOL NG AROUND, D D YOU HAVE TO HIT US SO HARD?

THIS COULD HAVE TURNED INTO THE MURDER CASE 'N THE HOT BATH, YOU KNOW...

ボコ

ボコ

THAT SURE HURT ...

Y-YES, SORRY ...

YOU TOO, KYU!!

HAHA, YEAH, HE DID!

N-NO, I GOT PLENTY!

WELL, DO YOU WANT SOME MORE?

WELL ...

WHAT DID YURI-SAN MEAN WHEN SHE SAID SHE WAS A TRAITOR?

BY THE WAY...

I WARNED THEM, BUT THEY DID IT ANYWAY...

EH?! WHY DO YOU SAY THAT?

COULD IT BE THAT...

YURI-SAN IS ALSO FROM JINCHU VILLAGE?

SHE FEELS SHE'LL BE THE NEXT HITOBASHIRA...

THAT'S WHY SHE'S SO SCARED.

MAYBE THEY WERE ONCE FRIENDS?

SEEING AS HOW HE CALLED HER A TRAITOR ...

SEEMS TO KNOW YURI-SAN WELL ...

BECAUSE THAT MUSASHI BOY ...

WHAT'S THE MATTER, KENTA?

AH, NO ...

TAKATOBI-SAN HIRED YURI-SAN, DESPITE HER STILL BEING YOUNG AND INEXPERIENCED, TO HANDLE SUCH AN IMPORTANT DAM PROJECT...

YES, THAT IS POSSIBLE ...

AND MAYBE BECAUSE OF THAT...

WHAT IF THIS REALLY IS A SUICIDE BY HANGING?

E-EH?! SUICIDE BY HANGING?

SOMETHING JUST CROSSED MY MIND...

I DON'T MEAN TO SUPPORT THAT LOUSY DETECTIVE, BUT ...

FOR KINTA, IT'S A SPECTACULAR DEDUCTION, YOU'D SAY...

HMM ...

SHADDUP, KAZUMA!

HEEY, THAT'S PRETTY GOOD, KINTA!

THE VICTIM FIRST GOES INTO THE ROOM, PUTS THE BLOCK OF CONCRETE IN IT SOMEHOW, AND HANGS HIMSELF ...

BUT BEFORE THAT, HE SETS FIRE TO THE ROOM! SO THE F RE BURNS UP THE ROPE, AND HE FALLS DOWN ON THE FLOOR, IN THE POSITION WE FOUND HIM IN!

メラ

メラ

バチン

NO, NOTHING LIKE THAT.

DID YOU F ND ANYTH NG LIKE THAT WHEN YOU SEARCHED THE SCENE, RYU?

EVEN IF THE ROPE LOST ITS PHYSICAL SHAPE, WE WOULD HAVE FOUND SMALL F'BRES ON THE SCENE OF CRIME ...

THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN TRACES OF ROPE ON THE BODY OR ON THE FLOOR ...

BECAUSE F THE ROPE BURNT DUE TO THE F RE...

BUT THERE'S A ZERO PERCENT CHANCE THAT IT HAPPENED LIKE THAT...

THIS ISN'T A CASE OF SUICIDE...

I REALLY THINK...

BAH! I WORKED SO HARD TO THINK THAT UP!!

BUT KINTA ...

DO YOU REALLY THINK A PERSON LIKE THAT WOULD COMMIT SUICIDE?

HE SEEMS TO BE A DEVIOUS AND UNDERHANDED PERSON, WHO FORCES HIS WILL ON OTHERS...

FROM WHAT LITTLE WE'VE HEARD ABOUT TAKATOBI-SAN ...

BECAUSE ...

THE MARK ON THE NECK OF THE BODY HAS PROVED THAT IT'S A MURDER!

BUT LUCKILY, UNKNOWN TO THEM...

AND THAT LOCKED ROOM ...

WAS USED BY THE CULPRIT TO MAKE IT SEEM AS THOUGH HE COMMITTED SUICIDE ...

I AGREE WITH KYU ...

T-THAT'S RIGHT...

AND THE CULPRIT USED A DEVILISH TRICK ...

TO COMMIT A HEINOUS CRIME IN A LOCKED ROOM!!

IT IS AN ELABORATELY PLANNED MURDER ...

CORRECT! THIS IS NOT A CURSE OR A SUICIDE...

.....

.....

FORGIVE THE INTRUSION. BUT A FAX HAS ARRIVED FOR YOU, GORA-SAN ...

A-AH!! MOZU-SAN! Y-YOU... YOU SURE STARTLED ME...

.....

ALRIGHT THEN! I'LL GO AS SOON AS I CHECK THIS DOCUMENT!

AS YOU WISH...

W-WELL, I DON'T SLEEP UNTIL IT, SO...

IF THE FIRE IN THE HEARTH GOES OUT, THE WATER WILL BECOME COLD. SO IT'S BETTER IF YOU TAKE A BATH NOW ...

I'M REALLY SORRY! WE HAD ASKED YOU TO INSTALL A FAX MACHINE IN THE INN'S LOBBY AND IT'S CAUSING YOU A LOT OF TROUBLE...

NO, IT'S NO TROUBLE AT ALL. SHALL I DRAW YOUR HOT BATH?

SEEING AS HOW HIS REPLACEMENT WILL MOST LIKELY BE THE HEAD SECRETARY OBANA ...

HE'LL BE PRETTY EASY TO MANIPULATE, HEH HEH HEH ...

EVEN IF TAKATOBI-SAN WAS MURDERED ...

THE PROJECT HAS TO CONTINUE ...

HUH ...

BLOODY VILLAGE BUMPKINS AND A CHEAPSKATE INN TO BOOT ...

COMING INTO THE ROOM WITHOUT EVEN KNOCKING...

IT LOOKS LIKE THINGS ARE REALLY LOOKING UP FOR ME... FUFUFUFU...

RAWS : SHERLUPIN
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DETECTIVE SCHOOL Q

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Art: FUMIYA SATO

探偵学園Q

HM?

YES, I'M FINALLY GOING TO MAKE IT BIG... FU FU FU...

SFX : bam!!

W-WHAT...

UWAAH!!!

HA
HA
HA
N-NO WAY... COULD IT BE THAT YOU... WERE THE ONE WHO KILLED TAKATOBI-SAN??
UGH..!!
!!
OUCHHH ...
IT HURTS, MEGU!
HA
HA
HA
I DIDN'T HIT YOU THAT HARD ...
OH?
!!!
N-NO . WHY NOW ..?
YOU HIT US WITH A PLANK OF WOOD...
IN THE BATH ...
THAT WAS BECAUSE YOU PEEKED!!
GEEZ ...
adibas

YEAH, IT IS. I MEMORIZED THE ROOM ARRANGEMENTS EARLIER. WHY?

HEY MEGU... THIS IS GORA-SAN'S ROOM, RIGHT? THE GUY WITH THE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY ...

KNOCK KNOCK

IF YOU DO...

DON'T COME IN ...

thump! thump!

THE LIGHTS ARE OFF. S HE ASLEEP ALREADY?

THERE'S NOTH NG STRANGE ABOUT THAT, IT'S ALMOST 11 P.M.

COME ON, I'M REALLY EXHAUSTED TODAY...

OKAY ...

LET'S SLEEP ...

thump! thump!

YES... GO AWAY ...

thump! thump!

I SAW GRAND-PA MOZU RECEIVING A LOT OF FAXES AT THE FRONT DESK...

HM, BUT 10 MINUTES AGO...

PHEW ...

thump! thump!

MAYBE THEY WERE FOR SOMEONE IN HIS OFFICE...

AND HE WENT TO SLEEP SINCE HE DID NOT WANT TO BE DISTURBED ...

WEREN'T THEY FOR GORA-SAN?

OH NO ...!!

!!

SLEEP!!

UGH ...

!!

P-444

SORRY, I DIDN'T THINK IT'D SWELL UP LIKE THAT...!

I'M A GOOD GUY

WHY DID YOU HAVE TO DO THIS TO ME, MEGU??

IT IS YOUR FAULT, YOU KNOW ...

YEAH, IT IS, HA HA HA HA!!

SHUT UP!! AND YOU, KYU!! YOU'RE AT FAULT TOO, BASTARD!!

UUUGHH ...

IT HAS SWOLLEN SO MUCH OVERNIGHT ...

CRACK!!!

YES, I CAN BELIEVE THAT, FU FU FU FU ...

HEH, KARMA GOT HIM GOOD...

GOOD MOR.. OH MY...! YOUR FACE ...

DON'T LAUGH, KYU!! E-EH?! YURI-SAN...!

THINGS THAT MUSN'T BE SAID, TO BE EXACT ...

I'M SORRY. BUT THERE ARE THINGS A MAN CAN'T TELL OTHERS ...

WHY ON EARTH IS YOUR FACE LIKE...

O-OH...! TOYAMA-SAN ...

BREAKFAST IS READY ...

AH, YES, NATSUMI-SAN...

IT CAME FROM OUTSIDE!

T-THAT'S GRANDPA ...!

UUUWWAAAAHHH!!!!

HUH...?

OWW!! DON'T HIT ME, KINTA!! YOW!!

SHUT IT!!

パ パ パ パ パ

GRANDPA!! WHAT'S WRONG??

A-AH ...

aibas

KYAAHHH!!!

G-GORA-SAN...?!

H-HOW CRUEL... TO BE PUT INTO THIS HEARTH AND BURNED ...

I-S IT... THE HITOBASHIRA??

W-WHY IS ALL THIS HAPPENING ...?

N-NO... G-GORA-SAN...

STOP!! DO NOT TAKE ANY MORE PHOTOGRAPHS!

I DOUBT IT'LL BE A PROBLEM ...

OH, YES... AND HAVE SOME MIGHTY FINE SHOTS OF JINCHU VILLAGE FOR MY ARTICLE, TOO.

FU FU FU ...

A-AREN'T YOU JINNA., THAT JERK JOURNA- ..ST??

Power Shot S 445

!!

SO... LOOKS LIKE THE FLAMES OF MAYAHIME HAVE CONSUMED YET ANOTHER PERSON...

YOU MAKE ME SICK, YOU KNOW ...

!

BESDES, AREN'T THE MYSTERIOUS DEATHS OF PEOPLE BEING AFFILIATED WITH THE DAM PROJECT SOOO INTERESTING??

TAKING PHOTOS ARE A PART OF A JOURNALIST'S JOB, OLD MAN!!

MEANWHILE, WE, FROM DDS, WILL SECURE THE CRIME SCENE!!

HEH, HOW CAN YOU SAVE A VILLAGE THAT'S GONNA BE DROWNED, KID?

W-WHAT D D YOU SAY??

JUST CALL THE POLICE !!

THAT'S ENOUGH !!

YOU'VE CHANGED A LOT... YOU'RE NOTHING LIKE THE OLD JINNA! WHO WANTED TO SAVE THE VILLAGE WITH MY BROTHER ...

MUSASHI!!

!

UGH ...

KYU...

grip

DAMN IT ...!

IT'S ESTI-MATED TO BE BETWEEN 11 AND 12 P.M. LAST NIGHT ...

THE CAUSE OF DEATH IS LOSS OF EXCESS BLOOD FROM A CUT TO THE WRIST ...

I SEE. AND THE ESTI-MATION OF THE TIME OF DEATH?

THE PERSON WHO FOUND THE BODY FIRST, WAS MOZU-SAN, WHO RUNS TH S INN ...

THAT A BURNT CORPSE WILL NOT SHOW ANY TRACES OF ASH IN THE NOSE OR MOUTH...!

BECAUSE THE CULPRIT W'LL HAVE LEARNED FROM THE PREVIOUS CASE...

HM? AND WHY S THAT?

I BEL EVE THAT THIS TIME, THE AUTOPSY WILL SHOW TRACES OF ASH FROM THE NOSE AND MOUTH OF THE BODY...

OF COURSE, ALL THIS IS TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE SUIC DE...

THEN, THEY'D HAVE SLASHED HIS WR STS AND MADE SURE THAT HE DIED OF EXCESS BLOOD LOSS...

THIS TIME AROUND, THE CULPRIT WOULD HAVE FIRST STRUCK GORA-SAN ON THE HEAD TO MAKE HIM UNCONSCIOUS, AND THEN STUFFED HIS HEAD INTO THE HEARTH...

AND I'LL SHOW YOU THE PROOF ...

FOLLOW ME, KIDS ...

...

TH S CASE IS STILL A SUICIDE!

HUH... EVEN SO ...

!

E-EH?! THIS IS ...

A SUICIDE NOTE??

FOLLOWING TAKATOBI-SAN, I SHALL ALSO BECOME A HITOBASHIRA FOR THE CURSED FLAMES OF MAYAHIME. - GORA

CORRECT. EARLIER, WHEN I ASKED OBANA-SAN ABOUT THIS, HE SAID ...

WAIT, DETECTIVE MINE!

EH? THE SECRETARY SAID THAT?

YOUR SO-CALLED DEDUCTIVE ANALYSIS IS NOT NEEDED ANYMORE...

THAT'S RIGHT, DDS KIDS ...

HE WAS ACTING PRETTY JUMPY ALL THE TIME, AND HE EVEN CALLED IN A PRIEST TO PERFORM A CLEANSING CEREMONY!

NOW I THINK OF IT, GORA-SAN HAD BEEN SAYING THAT HE FELT HE WAS CURSED RECENTLY...

WHAT IS IT NOW?

K-KYU ...!

WOULD DO THE FOLLO-WING THINGS ...?

DOES IT SOUND PLAUSIBLE TO YOU, THAT ACCORDING TO OBANA-SAN, TWO PEOPLE WHO FELT THEY WERE BURDENED BY SOMETHING ...

THAT THIS SUICIDE NOTE WAS WRITTEN BY GORA-SAN?

TELL ME... ARE YOU HONESTLY CERTAIN...

WELL, PEOPLE DO STRANGE THINGS WHEN THEY COMMIT SUICIDE, RIGHT ...?

SEE...? YOU THINK IT'S STRANGE TOO...

BUT OPTING TO STICK HIS HEAD IN A HEARTH FIRST ...

GORA-SAN, WHO CUT HIS WRISTS AND DIED ...

ONLY AFTER PUTTING A LARGE BLOCK OF CONCRETE IN FRONT OF THE DOOR...

TAKATOBI-SAN, DYING IN A FIRE, INSIDE A LOCKED ROOM...

IS JUST A SUICIDE?

.....

THEN WHY... WHY HAVE YOU DECIDED THAT THIS CASE FILLED WITH STRANGENESS ...

daipas

BUT WE HAVE NOT FOUND ANYTHING TO EXPLAIN HOW THE MURDER WAS COMMITTED ...

EVEN WE, THE POLICE, HAVE SEARCHED THAT LOCKED ROOM FROM TOP TO BOTTOM ...

!!

BECAUSE IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO BE OTHERWISE ...!

THEREFORE, FROM THE INVESTIGATION'S POINT OF VIEW, A MURDER IS SIMPLY IMPOSSIBLE!!

ESPECIALLY SINCE THE DOOR WAS BLOCKED BY THE CONCRETE ...

HOW DID THE CULPRIT VANISH LIKE SMOKE FROM THE LOCKED ROOM WHERE TAKATOBI-SAN WAS KILLED?

THE POLICE HAVE THUS CONCLUDED IT TO BE A SUICIDE, NOT A MURDER!!

AND IN THIS CASE WHERE NONE OF THE THREE ARE AVAILABLE, NOT TO MENTION IT BEING AN IMPOSSIBLE CRIME...

THEY CANNOT BE CHARGED UNLESS THE PROPER MEANS, MOTIVE AND OPPURTUNITY ARE DETERMINED ...

EVEN IN A CASE WHERE THE CULPRIT VOLNTARILY SURRENDERS TO THE POLICE ...

THAT IS WHAT WE HAVE CONCLUDED ...

B-BECAUSE IT SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE, YOU'RE SAYING IT WAS PART OF THE SUICIDE ATTEMPT MADE BY TAKATOBI-SAN??

AND I'LL SHOW YOU ...

HOW THE VICTIM LIFTED THAT HUGE BLOCK OF CONCRETE ...!

THEN COME ...!

AHA HA HA HA!!

YOU'RE STILL GOING ON ABOUT THAT ...?

B-BUT, CAN'T THAT SUICIDE SUPPOSITION BE CHANGED...??

SINCE THERE IS NO WAY THE VICTIM COULD HAVE PLACED THE CONCRETE BLOCK ALL BY HIMSELF!

WE HAVE TO SOLVE THE LOCKED ROOM CASE, FIRST!

BUT THAT MEANS...

THAT IS WHAT THE CULPRIT WANTS US TO DO!

WE CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN!

SO MANY THINGS ARE STILL UNCLEAR ...

O!... HOW?

E-EVEN IF WE COULD, HOW CAN THEY JUST CONCLUDE THIS AS A SUICIDE?

BUT WE ARE DETECTIVES ...!

MAYBE THE POLICE HAVE GIVEN UP ON IT...

DON'T GIVE UP, GUYS ...

E-EVEN THE POLICE HAVE WASHED THEIR HANDS OFF IT ...

D'YOU THINK WE'LL BE ABLE TO SOLVE IT?

BECAUSE, IF A DETECTIVE GIVES UP...

THE CASE WILL NEVER BE SOLVED!!

HEY, YOU THREE! COME HERE!

YES SIR!

EH? THREE? BUT WASN'T TAKATOBI-SAN ALONE ...?

NOW WATCH CLOSELY...

FURTHERMORE, THE CONCRETE BLOCK HAS ALSO NOT BEEN MOVED ...

THE CRIME SCENE HAS BEEN LEFT UNTOUCHED, AND IS THE SAME AS THE DAY THE CRIME TOOK PLACE ...

OF COURSE, THEY WERE UNDER STRICT ORDERS TO KEEP THEIR MOUTHS SHUT WHATEVER HAPPENS...

HE PAID THREE OF THE CONSTRUCTION WORKERS TO PUT THE BLOCK OF CONCRETE IN FRONT OF THE DOOR...

GOT IT? PROBABLY, AFTER THE VICTIM DECIDED TO COMMIT SUICIDE...

SHUT UP AND WATCH !!

UKH ...

SO... HEAVY ...!!

ONE

TWO ...

THREE !!

THEY PROBABLY AGREED TO IT SINCE THEY DID NOT KNOW THAT HE WAS GOING TO COMMIT SUICIDE...

THE PEOPLE WHO HAD OPPOSED THE DAM PROJECT WOULD NOT BE SUSPECTED!!

SINCE A DEATH IN A LOCKED ROOM WOULD THEN BE CONSIDERED A SUICIDE ...

HUH?

THAT'S BEING GOOD?

HEH, YOU THINK A POLITICIAN COULD BE SO GOOD OF HEART?

IF HE REALLY WAS PLANNING TO COMMIT SUICIDE, WHY PUT THE CONCRETE IN FRONT OF THE DOOR?

TO HELP THE POLICE RULE OUT THE CHANCE A MURDER ...!

WAIT A MINUTE, DETECTIVE MINE!

ONE, TWO, THREE ...

AND UP !!

S-SORRY! THE ROOM IS A BIT SMALL ...

HEY! WHY'RE YOU JUST STANDING THERE??

YES, OF COURSE!

TAKATOBI-SAN DID THAT ALONE, THEN?

THE DOOR IS CLOSED FROM THE NSIDE, AND THE CONCRETE IS PUSHED IN FRONT OF IT!

OBVIOUSLY, THE CONCRETE IS FIRST PUSHED DEEPER INSIDE THE ROOM, AND AFTER THE WORKERS LEAVE...

EVEN IF THE BLOCK OF CONCRETE IS PUSHED INSIDE, HOW CAN THE DOOR BE CLOSED? IT CLOSES FROM THE INSIDE, AFTER ALL ...

OH YES, THOUGHT OF THAT TOO...

YOU CAN PLA NLY SEE HOW HARD IT IS FOR 3 GUYS TO MOVE IT, HOW THE HELL COULD HE MOVE IT ALONE, HUH?

GRR... BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

THE ANCIENT EGYPTIANS DISCOVERED A GREAT IDEA TO MOVE AND LIFT THESE HEAVY STONES...

EGYPTIAN PYRAMIDS ARE MASSIVE STRUCTURES THAT CONTAIN HEAVY STONES STACKED ON TOP OF EACH OTHER...

DO YOU KNOW HOW THE PYRAMIDS OF EGYPT WERE BUILT??

PFFT ...

HEH... YOU, THE SMALL-EYED PONYTAIL-HAIRED BOY ...

HUFF HUFF ...

AFTER TAKATOBI-SAN LOCKED THE DOOR, HE PLACED WOODEN ROLLERS, WHICH HE HAD PREPARED IN ADVANCE, ON THE FLOOR ...

SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE SMARTER THAN PONYTAIL HERE...

THEY USED WOODEN ROLLERS, RIGHT?

OOHH... I KNOW!!

IT'S LIKE YOU SAID ...

YES ...

crack!

!

COME ON, DO IT!!

smash!!

WELL, IT IS HARD TO PUT THE BLOCK ON THE ROLLER

HUP!

WHICH HE USED TO MOVE THE CONCRETE EASILY. THE WOODEN ROLLERS THEN BURNED UP BY THE FIRE.

ドーン

バキ バキ バキッ

crash!!!

W-WAAH ...

O-OH NO ...!!!

. . . . . .

SPLIT IN TWO...

T-THE FLOOR ...

THE FLOOR WAS MADE FROM THE UNUSED WOOD FROM THE DAM PROJECT!!

FROM MY EXPERIENCE AS A WORKER, I THINK THAT ...

NO, IT'S NOT!!

N-NO WAY! WAS IT BECAUSE IT WAS BURNED??

SO, DETECTIVE MINE... IT SEEMS THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR IT TO BE A SUICIDE...

A-AH ...

SINCE THIS IS JUST A SMALL BUILDING MEANT FOR STORAGE AND EVENTUAL DEMOLISHMENT, IT WAS NOT VERY STURDILY MADE TO BEGIN WITH...

SO OBVIOUSLY, THE FLOOR WILL NOT STAND THE WEIGHT OF A HUGE CONCRETE BLOCK DROPPED DOWN ON IT!!!

T-THIS IS UNBELIEVABLE ...

S-SO, IT'S NOT A SUICIDE OR A MURDER..??

C-COULD THIS PLACE REALLY BE CURSED...??

S-SO... COULD THIS BE...

A LOCKED ROOM BY THE HANDS OF A SPIRIT ...?!

A BLOCK OF CONCRETE STANDS IN FRONT OF A LOCKED ROOM...

WHEN IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO EVEN MOVE IT IN THE FIRST PLACE...

THE MYSTERIES GO DEEPER ...

I-IS THIS REALLY A CURSE...?

N-NO WAY ...

A PERFECTLY LOCKED ROOM ...

WHO SACRIFICED HERSELF AS A HITOBASHIRA TO PROTECT JINCHU VILLAGE?!

C-COULD IT BE THE CURSED FLAMES OF MAYAHIME...

RYU... LOOK AT THIS...!

KYU? WHAT IS IT?

EH?? HOW ...?

BENEATH THIS BLOCK OF CONCRETE ...

THERE'S A SHEET OF PLASTIC ATTACHED...!

THIS IS A CRUCIAL CLUE...

COULD IT BE FROM THE PLASTIC THAT WAS PUT UNDER THE CONCRETE BEFORE??

YOU'RE RIGHT! ON THE GROUND TOO, THERE'S A TRACE OF PLASTIC BEING BURNT...

THIS LOCKED ROOM IS NOT FROM THE CURSE OF MAYAHIME!!

YES ...!

EVEN THOUGH IT WAS NEARLY INVISIBLE, IT'S STILL THERE ...

BUT ACTUALLY, IT IS A TRICK ...

A DARING TRICK LIKE NO OTHER!!

RAWS : SHERLUPIN
CLEANING : SHERLUPIN
TRANSLATIONS : PHIESELPHIE
TYPESETTING : THE WATCHFUL GENT

DETECTIVE SCHOOL Q

Story: SEIMARU AMAGI
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THANKS A LOT, AND KEEP SUPPORTING THE SERIES AS YOU ALWAYS HAVE!!!

THIS IS A DARING LOCKED ROOM TRICK ...

A TRICK LIKE NO OTHER!!

.....

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CHAPTER 87 : THE MAYAHIME LEGEND MURDER CASE - PART 4

TH S TYPE OF PLASTIC IS COMMONLY USED IN CONSTRUCTION SITES...

DID IT NOT BURN BECAUSE IT WAS UNDER THE BIG BLOCK OF CONCRETE??

KYU, IS THIS SHEET OF PLASTIC BENEATH THE CONCRETE A CLUE?

WHERE, WHERE?

THIS HOLE FOR VENTILATION WHICH S ONLY BIG ENOUGH FOR A KID'S ARM...

SO, THE CULPRIT MADE USE OF THAT ...

1

. . . .

EH?

OH WELL ...

WAIT, KINTA! LET IT BE!!

HM? IT'S PRETTY MUCH STUCK TO IT ...

EHH?

REALLY, KYU?

SO... YOU'VE SOLVED THE MYSTERY OF THE LOCKED ROOM, HAVEN'T YOU, KYU?

YES... I HAVE SOLVED IT!!

HAVE THEY DISCOVERED IT??

IMPOSSIBLE! IT WAS THE PERFECT TRICK!

damn it!!

BUT IT'S STILL NOT ENOUGH... THE MOTIVE, THE IDENTITY OF THE CULPRIT, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, THE EVIDENCE...

I HAVEN'T EVEN FOUND ONE OF THOSE!

IT'S LIKE MY ENTIRE HEAD IS SPINNING AROUND IN CIRCLES...!

BECAUSE, FROM THE TIME WE ARRIVED IN THE VILLAGE, ALL THE THINGS THAT HAPPENED HAVE BEEN PERFECTLY RECORDED IN MY BRAIN!

ASK ME ANYTHING ...

BECAUSE I'LL HELP YOU!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO SOLVE EVERY-THING, YOU KNOW...

EH?

I'LL HELP KAZUMA OUT WITH THAT!

GOOD!

TOWARDS THE IDENTITY OF THE CULPRIT!

IT MIGHT POSSIBLY BE CRUCIAL EVIDENCE ...

Y-YOU WILL, MEGU?

THEN I'LL CHECK ON SOMETHING I FOUND QUITE INTERESTING ...

LET'S ALL PUT ON OUR BADGES!!

OKAY! THEN WE ALL HAVE JOBS TO DO!

BRACE YOUR-SELVES ...

RIGHT! LEAVE THE LEGWORK TO ME!!

I'LL GO AROUND THE VILLAGE AND SEE IF I CAN GET A MOTIVE!!

DDS Q CLASS IS ON THE MOVE!!!

MUSASHI-KUN??

WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING??

!!

DAMN!

EH?? TOYAMA-SAN??

IT'S FINE. I'M THE ONE WHO IS IN THE WRONG...

YUR:-SAN, THIS BRAT MEANT TO HIT YOU!

OUCH!

THIS BRAT ...

PLEASE STOP!

DON'T YOU KNOW IT'S DANGEROUS TO SWING A POLE AROUND L KE THAT?

LET ME GO, YOU FREAK!

SHUT UP! IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!!

カラン

.....

YURI-SAN... WHAT IS GOING ON?

ASK THAT WOMAN THE REASON!!

BUT TAKATOBI-SAN AND THE KANEKI CONSTRUCTION COMPANY WENT AHEAD WITH THE PROJECT...

SO MUSAHI'S BROTHER WAS ONE OF THE FIRST PEOPLE WHO PROTESTED AGAINST THE PROJECT...

DURING THE EARLY STAGES OF THE PROJECT, THE OCCURENCES OF LANDSLIDES OFTEN CAUSES FATALITIES ON THE SITES ...

W-WAIT... AREN'T YOU TAKATOBI-SAN'S SECRETARY?

NO!! IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!!

SO THAT MEANS YOU SUPPORTED THIS PROJECT, RIGHT?

MUSASHI'S BROTHER, YAMATO-SAN, AND HIS BEST FRIEND, THE FREELANCE JOURNALIST JINNAI-SAN...

TRIED THE R BEST TO STOP THE PROJECT AND PROTECT THE VILLAGE AND ITS PEOPLE...

AND THIS IS THE VILLAGE WHERE I WAS BORN...

SO I BECAME HIS SECRETARY TO FIND A WAY TO STOP THIS PROJECT!

WHOA ...

WE WERE LOVERS!!

B-BECAUSE... YAMATO-SAN... YAMATO-SAN AND I...

THE DAM IS VERY NECESSARY ...

NOT FOR THE VILLAGE... BUT FOR THE AMOUNT OF PROFIT IT WILL GENERATE FOR ME, HA HA HA HA!!

EVERY TIME I ASKED HIM ABOUT THE PROJECT, HE LAUGHED AND REPLIED...

LOOK, YUR-SAN ...

SINCE TAKATOB-SAN DIDN'T GIVE A DAMN ABOUT THE PROTESTS ...

I TRIED TO GET SOME INSIDE INFO ON HIS DEALS AND ACCOUNTS ...

B-BUT IT WAS NO USE...

THINKING I COULD STOP THE PROJECT ALL BY MYSELF ...

FU FU... I WAS SO STUPID...

D-DAMN... THAT OLD BASTARD!!

IT'S NOT JUST ME, THOUGH ...

TO TELL, YOU THE TRUTH, I LOATHE BOTH TAKATOBI-SAN AND GORA-SAN...

蜂矢

IS VISITING YAMATO-SAN'S GRAVE ...

THE ONLY THING I AM GOOD FOR NOW ...

YUR.-SAN ...

IN THE END, ALL MY EFFORTS WERE IN VAIN, AS MY WORK AS ONE OF HIS SECRETARIES ACTUALLY HELPED HIM WITH THE PROJECT...

ALMOST EVERYBODY HATES THEM WITH A VENGEANCE...

AND ALSO NATSUMI-CHAN, WHO LOST HER PARENTS ...

GRANDPA MOZU, WHOSE SON WAS ONE OF THE MEN KILLED IN A LAND-SLIDE DURING THE PROJECT...

JINNAI-SAN WHO LOST HIS BEST FRIEND...

MUSASHI-KUN, WHO LOST HIS BROTHER ...

HARBOURS THE FEELINGS OF ANXIETY AND REVENGE IN THE SILENT VILLAGERS ...

IT'S BECAUSE OF THIS DAM CONSTRUCTION PROJECT, THAT THIS QUIET AND PEACEFUL VILLAGE ...

.....

SO MUCH SO THAT THEY COULD KILL THEM!!

I CAN EVEN SAY... THEY HATE THEM SO MUCH ...

AND MAKE THOSE TWO, THE VILLAGE'S HITOBASHIRA!!

SO MUCH SO... THAT MAYAHIME HERSELF HAD TO RISE FROM HER ASHES...

HEY, ISN'T THIS THE FAX THAT THE SECOND VICTIM, GORA-SAN RECEIVED RIGHT BEFORE HE DIED??

LUCKY!

THERE! THE POLICE DIDN'T THINK IT WAS IMPORTANT, SO THEY LEFT IT BEHIND!

SO, WHAT'S THAT THING WHICH YOU SAID MIGHT BE CRUCIAL PROOF, KAZUMA?

WAIT A SEC...

IT'S RIGHT HERE ...

HM, EXCESS FAX INK?

NOPE!

YEP! LOOK AT THESE LITTLE BLACK DOTS ON THE EDGE OF THE PAPER..

WHAT DO YOU THINK, RYU?

A CODE?!

I THINK IT'S A CODE THAT WAS WRITTEN DELIBERATELY!

MUSTERED THE LAST OF HIS STRENGTH, AND WROTE THIS DYING MESSAGE ON THE EDGE OF THE FAX PAPER!!!

BUT WHILE THE CULPRIT WAS NOT LOOKING, THE BARELY CONSCIOUS GORA-SAN ...

SO HE HIT HIM ON THE BACK OF THE HEAD ...

TO PUT GORA-SAN IN THE HEARTH, THE CULPRIT FIRST HAD TO FIRST RENDER HIM UNCONSCIOUS ...

CONSIDER IT THIS WAY...

AND THEN, HE SCATTERED THE PAPERS AWAY ...

HE WROTE IT ON THE EDGE OF THE PAPER SO THAT THE CULPRIT WOULD NOT EASILY SPOT IT...

I SEE!!

DYING MESSAGE ?!

MAYBE THESE DOTS WILL CONNECT AND HELP US TO FIND THE IDENTITY OF THE CULPRIT! THAT IS THE DYING MESSAGE!!

CORRECT! LET'S GET DOWN TO IT, THEN!

GORA-SAN KNEW WHO THE CULPRIT WAS, AND HE LEFT BEHIND A CLUE FOR US...

AND EVEN MADE SURE THAT THE CULPRIT COULDN'T ERASE IT LATER..

SO IF WE ARRANGE THE PAPERS IN SOME SORT OF ORDER..

ISN'T THIS WHAT YOU MEAN?

AROUND THE ROOM, MUCH LIKE THIS!!

CORRECT! IT'S AMAZING THAT YOU WERE ABLE TO GRASP IT SO QUICKLY, RYU!!

UM... WHAT IS THIS??

DONE !!

SO, HOW IS IT?

MAYBE THEY WROTE THE R NAME ON THE SIDE TO HELP GORA-SAN STACK IT EASIER...

IT'S THE NAME OF THE COMPANY WHICH HAS SENT THE FAX!

1/326 200x年00月11日 午前10時33分 産屋敷法律事務所

FAX送付状
FROM 東京設計事務所デザイン部 宮本
TO 金属精密 佐藤様

● K設計室に関して 至急ご連絡ください

御連絡
遅くなりましたが● Kに関連の資料その他です。
ご不明な点がございましたら

LOOK AT THIS, RYU ...

IF THAT'S IT, THEN IT'S OF NO USE ...

IT SAYS... KASHIYA??

BUT WAIT A MINUTE... WHY IS THE 'YA CHARACTER ONLY WRITTEN IN HIRAGANA*?

MAYBE IT'S SOME SORT OF FAD?

WELL, I'D ASKED FOR THE AUTOPSY REPORT ON TAKATOBI-SAN AND GORA-SAN'S BODIES.

WHAT FAX IS IT?

AH, THANK YOU. I'LL COME RIGHT AWAY...

RYU-SAN ...

A FAX FROM DDS HAS ARRIVED FOR YOU...

*T/L NOTE . THE JAPANESE LANGUAGE HAS TWO SCRIPTS - HIRAGANA AND KATAKANA. HIRAGANA IS USED FOR JAPANESE WORDS AND KATAKANA IS USED FOR NAMES AND LOAN WORDS. IN THE CONTEXT ABOVE, THE NAME OF THE FAX COMPANY SHOULD HAVE BEEN WRITTEN ENTIRELY IN KATAKANA, BUT THE LAST CHARACTER ALONE IS WRITTEN IN HIRAGANA, WHICH IS WHAT RYU IS POINTING OUT.

WAIT A MINUTE!!

!!

E-EH?! THIS S??

EH? PAGE 6 IS COMING OUT AFTER PAGE 5??

PIP

PIP

PIP PIP

HM. STILL FIVE PAGES LEFT. SO I GUESS THAT'S PRETTY MUCH ...

IS INDEED A DYING MESSAGE!!

KAZUMA... YOU WERE RIGHT... THE WRITING IN THE FAX ...

!?

IT WAS 10.45 PM, EXACTLY!!

OKAY, SHALL WE START, MEGU?

THE ESTIMATED TIME OF DEATH OF GORA-SAN WAS SAID TO BE BETWEEN 10 AND 12 P.M...

WHEN WE WALKED BY H S ROOM THAT NIGHT ...

WHAT TIME WAS IT?

HMM ...

HOLD ON ...

ON THE LAST SHEET, IT SAD 10.33!

OKAY, DID YOU HAPPEN TO SEE THE FAX THAT GORA-SAN RECEIVED?

IS SO, WHAT TIME WAS THAT?

10.33 PM?! THEN THAT MEANS...

IF IT WAS BE NG SENT SO LATE ...

THE FAX MUST HAVE BEEN AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT DOCUMENT ...

RIGHT, MEGU?

RIGHT! SO IT'S POSSIBLE HE WAS STAYING UP TO CHECK ON IT, RIGHT?

A-AH!!!

THE CULPRIT WAS HIDING INSIDE THE ROOM AT THAT TIME??

C-COULD IT BE, THAT ...

YEAH... HEY WAIT... WASN'T HIS ROOM DARK WHEN WE PASSED BY?

H-HEY ...

E-EH? WHAT STRANGE BEHAVIOUR?

I'VE FINALLY REALISED WHY THAT PERSON EXHIBITED THAT STRANGE BEHAVIOUR !!!

T-THAT'S IT, MEGU!!

SO... YOU KNOW WHO THE CULPRIT IS, KYU?

YES... BUT I DON'T HAVE THE MOTIVE OR THE EVIDENCE !!!

I'VE GOT THE MOTIVE, KYU !!!

THAT SOMEONE HAPPENED TO DO ...

THE VERY PECULIAR THING...

I'VE GOT EVERYONE'S MOTIVE...

!

RELATED TO THIS DAM PROJECT!!

KINTA !!!

HERE IT IS! THE DYING MESSAGE THAT GORA-SAN LEFT !!

WE'VE GOT IT!!!

AND AS FOR THE CULPRIT'S IDENTITY ...

WE HAVE THE PROOF ...

WITH THIS, ALL THE PIECES ARE IN PLACE!!

AMAZING ...

RYU!!! KAZUMA !!!

WE NEED TO GET READY AND GATHER EVERYONE ...

YES!

KYU ...

IT'S TIME WE REVEALED THE TRUE CULPRIT!!!

D-DDS STUDENTS, WHY HAVE YOU CA..ED US ALL HERE?

I SMELL A SENSATIONAL SCOOP, FU FU ...

SO, YOU GUYS KNOW WHO THE CU..PRIT IS, HUH?

AND I HAVE A TRA N TO CATCH, SO ...

I WAS IN THE M.DDLE OF MAKING PREPARATIONS FOR TAKATOBI-SAN'S FUNERAL ...

NO... THOSE WERE NOT SUICIDES, NATSUM. ...

KYU-SAN... WEREN'T BOTH THE DEATHS OF TAKATOBI-SAN AND GORA-SAN SUICIDES?

BOTH CASES WERE CLEARLY MURDERS!!!

HE'S RIGHT ...

WHAT?!

!!

I DID IT BECAUSE I KNOW THE ANSWER!!

HEY, KID!! WHO GAVE YOU THE PERMISSION TO GATHER EVERYONE HERE?!

!?

NOT THIS [redacted] AGAIN!!

DETECTIVE MINE!!

AND EVEN THE TRICK BEHIND THE SO-CALLED PERFECTLY LOCKED ROOM. , I KNOW THE ANSWER TO THEM ALL!!

THE IDENTITY OF THE CULPRIT ...

THE MEANS, THE MOTIVE, THE OPPURTUNITY ...

W-WHAT?!

THERE ARE EXACTLY...

THREE HINTS !!!

adibas

AND THIRD, THE SHEET OF PLASTIC WHICH HAD BEEN ATTACHED TO THE BOTTOM OF THE CONCRETE...

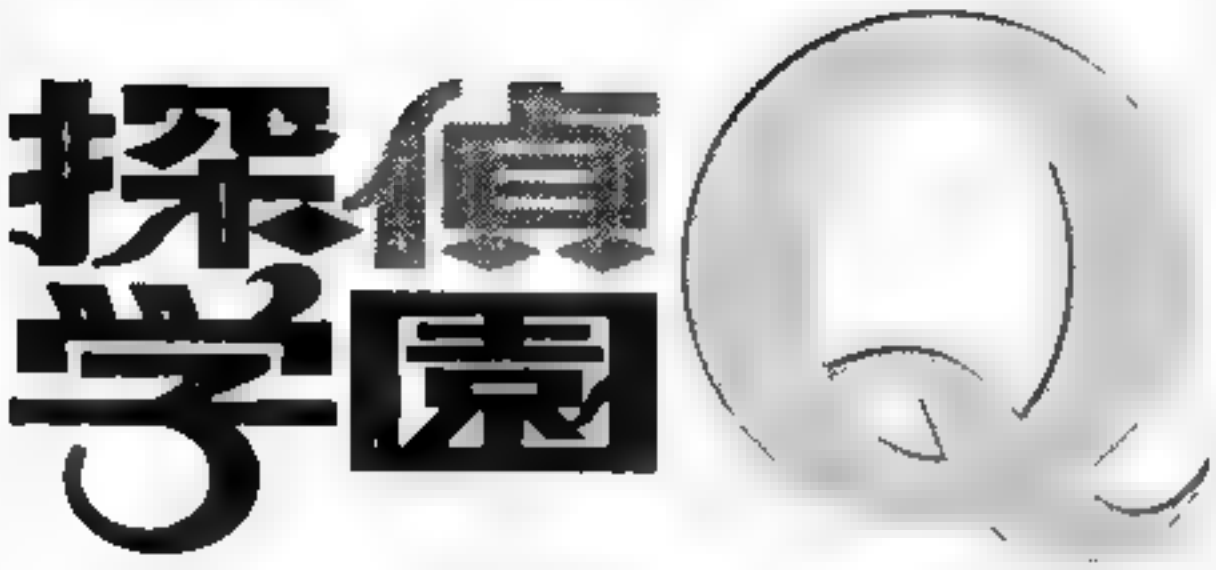
SECOND, THE ORDER IN WHICH GORA-SAN'S FAXES ARRIVED...

F RST OFF, THE VERY STRANGE BEHAVIOUR THAT SOMEBODY EXHIBITED ...

THERE IS ONLY...

ONE ANSWER !!!

END OF VOLUME 11
NEXT CHAPTER IS A SPECIAL CHAPTER!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RAWS : SHERLUPIN
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SPECIAL CHAPTER : THREE RINGS

YEAH! SAY OJ SAN... WHAT DO YOU WORK AS?

SO, YOUR NAME IS KYU, HUH?

ME?

EHH?! A DETECTIVE??

A DETECTIVE ...

WELL, I AM...

IS MORE LIKE UNTANGLING A CASE... MUCH LIKE UNTANGLING THESE STRINGS ...

A DETECTIVE'S JOB...

WOW... AMAZING !!

WELL... CATCHING BAD GUYS IS THE JOB OF THE POLICE!

SO YOU CATCH THE BAD GUYS, HUH?

BUT WHY ARE YOU WEARING A RING?

HAHAHA, I SUPPOSE IT IS WEIRD!

YOU'RE A MAN...

HUH? THAT'S WEIRD ...

THERE! IT'S UNTANGLED!

THANKS A LOT, DETECTIVE-SAN!

THE TRUTH IS... I REALLY LIKE THIS RING...

PRETTY COOL, HUH?

LOOK, THERE'S EVEN A PICTURE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES ON IT ...

OUCH!

ドサッ

UGHHH
...

MORN NG
!!

GOOD
MORNING
KYL!

IT'S THAT
DREAM AGA N
...

I DO! BECAUSE OF THAT, I MADE PLANS WITH THE OTHERS TO GO WATCH A MOVIE TODAY!

OOH, WHICH MOVIE?

カイキン

I THOUGHT YOU HAD AN OFF DAY AT DDS?

WELL, THAT'S STRANGE... YOU USUALLY SLEEP FOR SO MUCH LONGER...

I SEE NOW ...

WHY I HAD THAT DREAM...

WHAT?

AH!

I THINK IT'S "THE RING" ...

THAT DETECTIVE WHO SAVED ME !!!

A DREAM OF WHEN I FIRST MET...

THOUGH HE WAS A MAN. BUT I GUESS THAT'S A TREND NOW, HUH?

HE WAS EVEN WEARING A RING WITH THE HOLMES SYMBOL...

I EVEN ASKED HIM WHY HE WORE IT ...

SEEING THAT, THAT OJISAN HELPED ME SORT IT OUT ...

WELL, I WAS FISHING AT THE RIVER, AND THE STRINGS GOT TANGLED...

EH? A WEDDING RING?

MAYBE IT WAS A WEDDING RING!

I WONDER WHAT THAT RING WAS. IT WAS REALLY PRECIOUS TO HIM ...

.....

SO IT IS NATURAL THE RING IS VERY PRECIOUS TO HIM!

AND SHE TOO, WEARS THE SAME RING AS HIM ...

MAYBE THAT MAN HAS A WIFE SOMEWHERE ...

ACCORDING TO MY WATCH, THERE'S STILL AN HOUR LEFT!

THAT'S OKAY! WE'RE MEETING AT 9 ...

KYU, IS IT OK YOU'RE SITTING LIKE THAT WHEN YOU HAVE TO MEET YOUR FRIENDS?

A VERY PRECIOUS RING, HUH ...

I-IT'S STOPPED ...

B-BUT MY WATCH SHOWS ...

WHAT?

EH? BUT IT'S PAST NINE, NOW !!

C-CALM DOWN, KYU ...

bang!! slam!! crash!!

OW !!

WHY DOES IT ALWAYS STOP WHEN I NEED IT THE MOST??

WAAAH!! AGAIN!!!

2F

THAT'S BECAUSE YOU WERE SCREAMING YOUR HEAD OFF THE WHOLE TIME...

WAHH! THAT MOVIE WAS PRETTY GOOD!!

MY HEART WAS BEATING PRETTY FAST!

THOUGH I DIDN'T REALLY LIKE THAT MOVIE...

YOU'RE RIGHT, MEGU!

IT'S A GREAT IDEA!

BUT WE SHOULD DO THIS MORE OFTEN ...

TO BE HONEST, I ONLY UNDER-STOOD HALF, MYSELF...

RIGHT, RYU?

AND YOU FELL ASLEEP IN THE MIDDLE, SNORING SO LOUD I COULD NOT EVEN LISTEN TO WHAT WAS BEING SAID...

JUST SAY YOU DIDN'T UNDERSTAND ...

AND I'M STARVING !!!

IT IS ALMOST NOON ...

WELL... NOW WHAT ??

THEN WHY DID YOU COME

I'LL JUST DOWNLOAD IT AND WATCH IT AGAIN!

OH WELL ...

YEAH... SO HOW ABOUT IT, KYU?

EH?

YOU'VE GOT TO MAKE AMENDS!!

YOU CAME 1 HOUR LATE!!

STARING AT ME LIKE THAT ???

W-WHY ARE YOU GUYS ...

WHERE I CAN TREAT YOU ...

THEN THERE'S ONLY ONE PLACE...

...

OKAY ...

!

B-BUT I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH TO TREAT YOU ALL...

WE'RE NOT ASKING FOR STEAK!

YEAH, JUST TREAT US TO WHAT YOU CAN AFFORD!

PLEASE DIG IN!!!
THE GYOUDON* HERE IS REALLY GOOD, DESPITE ITS LOOKS!!
I-IS THIS BLACK THING BURNT MEAT OR ONION?
Y-YES ...
I-I NEVER ASKED FOR A TREAT
THIS LOOKS MORE LIKE DONBURI** THAN GYOUDON

*T/L NOTE : GYOUDON : BEEF RICE.
**T/L NOTE : DONBURI : A STEW OF VEGETABLES AND/OR MEAT SERVED ON RICE

PLASTIC BAG??

RUBBER BAND

.....

I'M STARVING HERE!

DAMMIT, WHATEVER !!!

LET'S JUST EAT!

CAN I TAKE A LOOK?

HMM, IT DOESN'T SEEM THAT EXPENSIVE ...

OH, THIS? I JUSTED WANTED TO WEAR IT TODAY...

MEGU, YOU'RE WEARING A RING?

HUH??

EH? SHOW ME!!

bam!!

WAAH!

Shine!

drop!

七味

?

?

?

GAHH!!

roll

roll

...

AHH!

T-THE RING... FELL INTO THE GRASS...

ギュア

ギュア

ギュア

GIVEN TO ME BY THE MOST IMPORTANT PERSON IN MY LIFE !!!

THAT RING IS THE ONLY ONE IN THIS WORLD ...

EH?

COULD IT BE ...

MOST IMPOR-TANT ...

EEHH ?!

YOUR MOST IMPORTANT PERSON?

DON'T BE STUPID!!

THAT YOU'RE MARRIED, MEGU?

I HAVE THIS UNEASY FEELING ...

WHY ???

HUH?

MEGU'S MOST IMPORTANT PERSON, HUH...

LET'S SEARCH FOR IT!

OKAY!

NO, NO NO!!!

WHO COULD IT BE???

WHAT AM I THINKING ??

IT'S MY FAULT THAT MEGU LOST HER PRECIOUS RING...

I NEED TO F ND IT MYSELF!

THAT CROW PECKED ME ON MY HEAD !!!

DAMMIT ...

STRANGE. WE'VE SEARCHED EVERY-WHERE ...

THE R NEST MUST BE THERE...

THAT'S RIGHT ...

WHAT WAS THAT??

T-THAT ...

GAH !!

HOR

WAIT... COULD IT BE...

HUP!

CLIP

CLIP

OI KYU!! WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING ??

THAT'S REALLY DANGEROUS, KYU!!

!!

WAAH!!

UWAAHHH!!!

KYU!!!

ARE YOU OKAY, KYU?

WHY'D YOU SUDDENLY CLIMB THAT TREE??

FLAP FLAP

AHH ...

KU

HUP!

WHY, KYU?

FOR THIS ...

YOUR PRECIOUS RING, MEGU ...

INSIDE THE CROW'S NEST ...

B-BUT HOW ...

W-WHERE DID YOU FIND IT??

!?

SHATTERED GLASS OR STEEL!

I SAW ON TV THAT CROWS' NESTS OFTEN FOUND OBJECTS LIKE..

CROWS LIKE TO GATHER SHINY STUFF ...

AH, I GET IT!

CROW'S NEST?

GRIP!

AND IT MIGHT HAVE TAKEN THE SHINY RING!!

SO I THOUGHT ITS NEST MIGHT BE AROUND HERE ...

THAT'S RIGHT! A CROW PECKED YOU, RIGHT, KAZUMA?

THANK GOODNESS ...

IF I LOST THIS RING ...

I WOULDN'T KNOW WHAT I'D DO...

KYU ...

!

.....

MEGU ...

N-NO... IT WAS NOTHING ...

THANK YOU!!!

.....

EH? WHAT IS IT?

MEGU... CAN I ASK YOU SOME-THING?

YEAH, IT IS ...

THE DUSK SKY IS SO BEAUTIFUL !!!

OK!

THE SKY LOOKS LIKE IT'S BURNING !!

WELL, LET'S GO HOME!!

IT'S A SECRET!

EHHH?! TELL ME!!

!

WHO IS IT?

T-THE PERSON WHO GAVE YOU THAT RING... YOUR MOST IMPORTANT PERSON...

ATLEAST GIVE ME A LITTLE CLUE!!

FUFUFU... NOPE, I WON'T SAY A THING!

NO WAY!

COME ON, YOU CAN TELL ME!

TO MEGU, FROM DAD

探偵学園Q